



California Tenants – Use this letter if you are a tenant who is being harassed by your landlord in order to get you to leave your apartment.

Instructions:

- 1. Click here to open a Microsoft Word version of this sample letter
2. The Microsoft Word-version will have the same blank spaces as this version, but will not have the comments in the margin. Fill out the blanks in the Microsoft Word-version using the comments on the margins of this version as a guide.
3. Use this sample letter if you are a tenant who is being harassed by your landlord in order to get you to leave your home.
4. Please note that you should tailor this letter to the facts in your case. This template is not a substitute for legal advice. If you need help finding a tenant attorney, please see the Tenants Together Directory.
5. Once filled out with your information and sent to your landlord, keep a copy for your records.

Sent via Certified Mail- Return Receipt Requested

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Commented [MC1]: Date

()
()

Commented [MC2]: Full name of landlord and/or property manager

Commented [MC3]: Address of landlord and/or property manager

Dear (),

Commented [MC4]: Full name of landlord and/or property manager

I () am a tenant at (). I am writing because I have been subjected to harassment in order to get me to vacate my home.

Commented [MC5]: Your/tenant's name(s)

Commented [MC6]: Address, City, State, Zip

The reason for my concern is

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Commented [MC7]: Describe each instance of harassment in as much detail as possible including any information to show that the landlord harassed you in order to get you to leave your apartment

California law prohibits tenant harassment. A landlord may not harass a tenant in order to get him or her to leave a dwelling. A landlord cannot steal, extort, menace, block access or threaten to disclose immigration status in order to get a tenant to vacate his or her dwelling. California Civil Code §§ 1940.2(a)(1)-(5). Additionally, a landlord cannot interrupt utility service, remove outside doors or windows, or remove the tenant's property or furnishing from the dwelling in order to terminate a tenant's occupancy. California Civil Code §§ 789.3(a)-(b).

A landlord who engages in such harassment may be liable for civil penalties of up to \$2,000 for each violation of § 1940.2. California Civil Code § 1940.2(b). Under § 789.3, a landlord is liable for actual damages, statutory damages of \$100 per day or part of a day that the landlord is in violation of that code section and attorney's fees. California Civil Code §§ 789.3(c)-(d).

I demand that you refrain from any further acts of harassment.

Sincerely,

(
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Commented [MC8]: Your signature

Commented [MC9]: Your full name