

**REGULATIONS FOR THE JUST CAUSE FOR EVICTION ORDINANCE  
(MEASURE EE, CODIFIED IN THE OAKLAND MUNICIPAL CODE  
at 8.22.300, et seq.)**

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## **Introduction.**

The following regulations address portions of the Just Cause for Eviction Ordinance (“Just Cause Ordinance”). Only those sections where the Housing, Residential Rent and Relocation Board (“Rent Board”) adopted regulations are included. The numbering system follows the codified version of the Just Cause Ordinance. These Regulations were originally adopted in 2004 and include the 2007, 2009, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2024 Amendments.

### **8.22.340 - Definitions.** [rev. 7/24/18]

“Appeal Panel” has the same meaning as that term is defined in O.M.C. Section 8.22.020.

“Rent Program” means the Rent Adjustment Program as defined in O.M.C. Section 8.22.020.

“Rental Unit” includes a unit in a structure that is being used for residential uses whether or not the residential use is a conforming use permitted under the Oakland Municipal Code or Oakland Planning Code. This definition applies to any dwelling space that is actually used for residential purposes, including live-work spaces, whether or not the residential use is legally permitted. [new 7/24/18]

### **8.22.350 – Applicability and Exemptions.** [rev. 3/28/19]

#### **B. Health Facilities.**

1. Where a federal, state, county, or local license or permit is required in order to lawfully engage in the activity that qualifies for the exemption, the Landlord must plead and prove that the facility is properly licensed.

#### **C. Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities.**

1. Where a federal, state, county, or local license or permit is required in order to lawfully engage in the activity that qualifies for the exemption, the Landlord must plead and prove that the facility is properly licensed.

#### **D. Homeless Transitional Facilities.**

1. Where federal, state or local license or permit is required in order to lawfully engage in the activity that qualifies for the exemption, the Landlord must plead and prove that the facility is properly licensed.

### **8.22.360 - Good Cause Required for Eviction.**

#### **8.22.360.A.2.** [rev. 2/11/21]

- a. A “material term of the tenancy” of the lease includes obligations that are implied by law into a residential tenancy or rental agreement and are an obligation of the Tenant. Such obligations that are material terms of the tenancy include, but are not limited to:
  - i. Nuisance. The obligation not to commit a nuisance. A nuisance, as used in these regulations, is any conduct that constitutes a nuisance under Code of Civil Procedure § 1161 (4). Provided that a termination of tenancy for any conduct that

- might be included under O.M.C. 8.22.360 A4 (causing substantial damage), A5 (disorderly conduct), or A6 (using premises for illegal purpose) and which also be considered a nuisance, can follow the requirements of those sections in lieu of this section (O.M.C 8.22.360 A2). Nuisance also includes conduct by the Tenant occurring on the property that substantially interferes with the use and enjoyment of neighboring properties that rises to the level of a nuisance under Code of Civil Procedures § 1161 (4).
- ii. Waste. The obligation not to commit waste, as the term waste may be applicable to a residential tenancy under California Code of Civil Procedure § 1161. Waste, as used in these regulations, is any conduct that constitutes waste under Code of Civil Procedure § 1161 (4). Provided that a termination of tenancy for any conduct that falls under O.M.C 8.22.360 A4 (causing substantial damage) and might also be considered waste can follow the requirements of that section in lieu of this section (O.M.C 8.22360 A2).
- b. Repeated Violations for Nuisance, Waste or Dangerous Conduct.
- i. Repeating the Same Nuisance, Waste, or Dangerous Conduct within 12 Months. The first time a Tenant engages in conduct that constitutes nuisance, waste or is dangerous to persons or property within any 12 month period, the Landlord must give the Tenant a warning notice to cease and not repeat the conduct. If the Tenant repeats the same or substantially similar nuisance, waste or dangerous conduct within 12 months after the Landlord served the prior notice to cease, the Landlord need not serve a further notice to cease, but may give a notice pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 1161 for the repeated conduct.
  - ii. Repeating Different Nuisance or Waste Conduct within 24 Months. The first two times a Tenant engages in different conduct that constitutes waste or a nuisance that interferes with the right of quiet enjoyment of other Tenants at the property, the Landlord must give the Tenant a warning notice to cease and not repeat the conduct. If within 24 months after the Landlord served the first of the two notices to cease for the waste or nuisance conduct, the Tenant again engages conduct that constitutes waste or a nuisance that interferes with the right of quiet enjoyment of other Tenants at the property, the Landlord need not serve a further notice to cease, but may give a notice pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 1161 for the third incident of waste or nuisance conduct.
- c. By giving a Tenant a notice that the Tenant has violated a material term of tenancy, the Landlord is not precluded from also noticing a possible eviction for the same conduct under a separate subsection of O.M.C. 8.22.360 so long as the notices are not contradictory or conflicting.
- d. Reasonable and Unreasonable Refusal of Tenant's Written Request to Sublet or Add Additional Occupants

- i. A Landlord may reasonably deny a Tenant’s request to sublease, to replace a departing tenant, or to add an additional occupant in some circumstances including but not limited to:
  - (1) where the Landlord resides in the same rental unit as the Tenant;
  - (2) where the unit is restricted as affordable housing as defined by O.M.C. Section 15.72.030 and the request to add an occupant is deemed incomplete and inadequate due to failure to provide all documentation required for qualification of such occupant and the household, after the occupant’s addition, under the rules restricting the housing;
  - (3) where the total number of occupants in the unit exceeds (or with the proposed additional occupant(s) would exceed) the lesser of:
    - (i) two persons in a studio unit, three persons in a one-bedroom unit, four persons in a two-bedroom unit, six persons in a three-bedroom unit, or eight persons in a four-bedroom unit; or
    - (ii) the maximum number permitted in the unit under state law and/or other local codes as the Building, Fire, Housing and Planning Codes;
  - (4) where the proposed occupant will be legally obligated to pay some or all of the rent to the Landlord and the Landlord can establish the proposed additional occupant’s lack of creditworthiness, so long as the Landlord does not use more stringent criteria or processes with the proposed occupant than they or their predecessor used with any of the current occupants of the subject unit;
  - (5) where the Landlord can establish that the proposed occupant has intentionally misrepresented significant facts on the Landlord’s standard form application or provided significant misinformation that interferes with the Landlord’s ability to conduct a background check. Such misrepresentation or misinformation does not include minor discrepancies on credit reports or tenant screening reports or where the proposed occupant’s background check returns other names that were undisclosed by the proposed occupant;
  - (6) where the Landlord can establish that the proposed occupant presents a direct threat to the health, safety or security of other residents of the property, or to the property itself;
  - (7) where the tenant refuses to identify the proposed occupant.
- ii. A Landlord’s denial of a Tenant’s written request to replace a departing tenant or add an additional occupant shall be considered unreasonable in some circumstances, including but not limited to the following:
  - (1) denial based on the criminal history of the proposed occupant, as prohibited by the Fair Chance Access to Housing Ordinance (O.M.C. 8.25.010 et seq or successor provisions). This subsection shall also apply to proposed occupants who do not qualify as Applicants under the Fair Chance Access to Housing Ordinance, who also may not be denied on the basis of criminal history;

- (2) denial based on requirements that are more stringent than those imposed by the Landlord on other applicants, including on the existing Tenant at the inception of the tenancy;
  - (3) denial based on the Tenant's refusal to agree to an extended lease term or other changes in the terms of tenancy;
  - (4) denial based on the proposed occupant's lack of creditworthiness, if the occupant will not be legally obligated to pay some or all of the rent to the Landlord;
  - (5) denial based on the Tenant's refusal to provide a copy of the subtenancy agreement to the Landlord;
  - (6) denial based on the Tenant's or proposed occupant's refusal to provide information or participate in processes that are outside of a generally accepted application process;
  - (7) denial based on the Tenant's or proposed occupant's prior acts of tenant organizing, participating in or belonging to a tenant rights organization, requesting repairs, contesting rent increases, filing a complaint with a government agency, or other exercise of legal rights under the law as a tenant.
- iii. When a request to add an occupant who will be legally obligated to pay some or all of the rent to the Landlord is denied based on the proposed occupant's lack of creditworthiness, a new request to add the same occupant as a subtenant may be submitted. Such new requests made for individuals without legal obligation to pay some or all of the rent to the Landlord may not be reasonably denied based on the proposed individual's lack of creditworthiness.
  - iv. As used in O.M.C. Section 8.22.360 A2 and Regulation 8.22.360.A.2, "creditworthiness" includes any standard of determining suitability to receive credit or reliability to pay money owed, including any financial or income standard.

**8.22.360.A.4.**

A notice that the Tenant has willfully caused substantial damage must give the Tenant at least 45 days after service of the notice to repair the damage or pay the Landlord for the reasonable cost of repairing such damage.

**8.22.360.A.5.**

Destroying the peace and quiet of other Tenants at the property is conduct that substantially interferes with the peace, quiet, and enjoyment of other Tenants at the property.

**8.22.360.A.6 - Illegal Use of the Premises.**

- a. For purposes of Subparagraph O.M.C. 8.22.360 A.6 a person who illegally sells a controlled substance upon the premises or uses the premises to further that purpose is deemed to have committed the illegal act on the premises, in accordance with California Code of Civil Procedure § 1161 (4).
- b. Using the premises for an unlawful purpose is any conduct that constitutes using the premises for an unlawful purpose under Code of Civil Procedure § 1161 (4).
- c. Where a unit has been cited for housing, building, or planning code violations, and the Landlord is unwilling or unable to make the necessary repairs or corrections, the Tenant will not be deemed to have “committed an illegal act on the premises” pursuant to this Regulation 8.22.360 A.6. Where a unit is being taken off the rental market due to housing, building, or planning code violations, the Landlord must follow the procedures found in Regulation 8.22.360 A.10(b) herein to evict the Tenant.

**8.22.360.A.8.** [new reg 3/23/17]

- a. A notice terminating tenancy under this section must contain, in addition to the provisions required under O.M.C. 8.22.360 B 6:
  - i. The lawful rent applicable for the unit on the date of the notice.

**8.22.360.A.9 - Eviction for Owner or Relative Move In.** [revised 1/25/18]

- a. A notice terminating tenancy under this section must contain, in addition to the provisions required under O.M.C. 8.22.360 B 6:
  - i. A listing of all real property owned by the intended future occupant(s).
  - ii. The address of the real property, if any, on which the intended future occupant(s) claims a homeowner’s property tax exemption.
  - iii. The lawful rent applicable for the unit on the date of the notice.
  - iv. A statement informing tenant(s) as to their right to relocation payments (O.M.C. 8.22.850) and the amount of those relocation payments.
- b. For the purpose of subdivision (a), real property means a parcel of real estate located in Oakland or elsewhere.

**8.22.360.A.9.g.**

This regulation addresses a Tenant’s claim of “protected status” as elderly, disabled, or catastrophically ill pursuant to Section 8.22.360 A.9.e. and how it may be contested by a Landlord.

- i. **Statement with Supporting Evidence of Protected Status.** In order to present a claim for protected status, a Tenant must give the Landlord a statement claiming protected status along with evidence supporting the claim. The evidence must include a statement that the Tenant has resided in the unit for more than five

years. The supporting evidence must be of the Tenant's age, or that the Tenant has a disability that limits a major life activity, or that he or she has a catastrophic illness. If the Tenant produces evidence of protected status sufficient to establish a facial claim of protected status, the Landlord has the burden of producing evidence to contradict the Tenant's evidence. Below are examples of types of evidence concerning protected status that may be used to present a claim that a Tenant is entitled to protected status:

- (a) Elderly Status: driver's license, DMV identity card, birth certificate, or other document in which the age or date of birth must be submitted under oath.
  - (b) Disabled status: Evidence that a Tenant has a disability that limits a major life activity may be in the form of a statement from a treating physician or other appropriate health care provider authorized to provide treatment, such as a psychologist. A Tenant may also submit evidence of a medical determination from another forum, such as Social Security or workers' compensation, so long as it includes the fact of that the Tenant has a disability and its probable duration.
  - (c) Catastrophically Ill Status. Evidence of disabled status plus a statement from the Tenant's primary care physician or other appropriate health care provider that the Tenant has a life threatening illness. The evidence need not provide any information on the nature of the disability or catastrophic illness.
- ii. Jurisdiction over Challenges to Protected Status. Courts have concurrent jurisdiction with the Rent Program over Landlord challenges to a Tenant's claim to protected status.
- (a) Court. A Tenant may defend against an eviction by claiming protected status claim where the Landlord seeks recovery of the unit for occupancy by the owner or the Landlord's eligible relative.
  - (b) Rent Program.
    - 1. A Landlord and a Tenant may agree at any time to have the Rent Program address a Tenant's claim for protected status. Either the Landlord or the Tenant may petition the Rent Program at any time to seek resolution of the claim for protected status, but the Rent Program will not assume jurisdiction over the petition unless the other party agrees to Rent Program jurisdiction.
    - 2. A Landlord who is selling a property may request that a Tenant state whether the Tenant will claim protected status if the Landlord's successor seeks to evict the Tenant for occupancy by the owner or the owner's close relative.
      - (a) The owner may make this request under the conditions and procedures:
        - i. The building contains 6 or fewer rental units.

- ii. The building contains more than 6 rental units and the unit the Tenant occupies is unique. Unique means that no more than 5 percent of the units in the building are similar in size, location, and/or amenities.
  - iii. The Landlord has an accepted offer from a purchaser and the offer is contingent upon the availability of a unit to owner-occupy.
  - iv. The Landlord makes the request to the Tenant on a form provided by the Rent Program verifying the appropriate information under penalty of perjury.
- (b) The Tenant must respond within 15 calendar days of service of the request. A Tenant who fails to respond within the 15 calendar days is deemed to have waived any claim of entitlement to protected status as of the last date the response was due.
- iii. Rent Program Hearings Contesting Protected Status.
  - (a) Procedure. Rent Program hearings contesting a Tenant's disability or catastrophic illness are conducted in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rent Adjustment Program Regulation 8.22.090. Rent Program staff may establish any additional specialized procedures necessary for hearings under this section.
  - (b) Confidential Nature of Hearings. Evidence of a Tenant's disability or illness is deemed confidential. Hearings, records of hearings, and decisions (except for whether the Tenant has protected status) based on disability, or catastrophic illness will not be open to the public. Records of the decision will not be considered public records for purposes of the California Public Records Act (Cal. Government Code § 6250, et seq.). The Landlord or his/her representative, agent, or attorney may not release any evidence or records or information contained in such evidence or records pertaining to the Tenant's disability or illness to a person other than the parties or their representatives for the hearing. Rent Program staff may adopt supplementary rules to conduct hearings so as to protect the medical privacy of Tenants while permitting parties to obtain necessary evidence.
  - (c) Tenant's Burden. The Tenant has the burden of proving protected status.
  - (d) Health Care Examination.
    - 1. Landlord's Request. If the Landlord reasonably determines that in order to respond to the Tenant's evidence of disability or illness a medical examination is necessary, the Landlord may request the Rent Program order the Tenant to obtain the opinion of a second health care provider, designated or approved by the Landlord, concerning any information on which the Tenant bases her/his claim for protected status. The examination will be at the Landlord's own expense.

2. Independent Examination. The Landlord and Tenant may agree to have an independent examination conducted by a health care provider agreed to by the parties or appointed by the Hearing Officer. The parties must agree that the results of the independent examination will be binding on the parties as to the Tenant's status as disabled or catastrophically ill. The independent examination will be at the Landlord's expense unless the parties agree otherwise.
  3. Limitation on Examination. Any health care examination under this subsection must be limited to the health related condition that the Tenant claims is the basis for the disability or catastrophically ill status. The Hearing Officer may issue such orders or place such conditions on the examination as may be necessary to limit the examination to the Tenant's condition at issue.
  4. Tenant Refusal to be Examined. At Tenant's refusal to be examined at the Landlord's request or to cooperate with such examination will defeat the Tenant's claim of protected status, unless the Tenant can prove her/his claim by clear and convincing evidence and the Landlord's request for an examination is unreasonable.
- iv. No Appeal to Rent Board for Disability or Catastrophically Ill Claims Unless Tenant Waives Privacy in Medical Records. Neither party may appeal the Hearing Officer's decision to the Rent Board unless the Tenant is willing to waive any privacy or confidentiality to medical records or other confidential records pertaining to the Tenant's disability or illness. Without such a waiver, a decision of the Hearing Officer is final as to the administrative processes of the City of Oakland and any party wishing to further contest the Hearing Officer's decision must seek judicial review.
  - v. Landlord or Landlord's Relative or Other Tenant for Claims Protected Status. A Landlord may still evict a Tenant with protected status where the Landlord or the Landlord's relative who will be occupying the unit has protected status, or where every other unit of the Landlord is occupied by a Tenant claiming protected status. In either of the aforementioned circumstances, any challenge to the Landlord's right to evict a Tenant with protected status would be addressed in an unlawful detainer or other court proceeding.

**8.22.360.A.10 - Eviction for Repairs or to Bring Unit in Compliance with Municipal Code or Other Laws Affecting Health and Safety of Tenants.**

- a. Petitioning to Extend Time for Tenant Vacancy.
  - i. Purpose. When a Landlord seeks to recover possession of a unit to make repairs, the repairs must be completed in time to permit the Tenant to reoccupy the unit after three months of vacancy. If more than three months of vacancy are required

to complete the repairs, the Landlord may petition the Rent Program to extend this time.

- ii. Additional Notice Requirements. In addition to the other requirements for the notice terminating tenancy in the Just Cause Ordinance or by state law, the Landlord must include the following information in a prominent place on the front of the notice:
  - (a) If the Tenant wishes to return to the rental unit, the Tenant must provide the Landlord with a forwarding address and telephone number or other contact information. A Tenant who fails to provide this information may not be entitled to return to the rental unit.
  - (b) The lawful rent applicable for the unit on the date of the notice. [new reg 3/23/17]
- iii. Time for Petitioning.
  - (a) When the Landlord knows before the notice to terminate tenancy is served on the Tenant that the repairs cannot be completed within the three-month period, the Landlord must file the petition with the Rent Program and serve the Tenant with a copy of the petition to extend time with or before the notice to terminate tenancy.
  - (b) When the Landlord discovers, after serving the notice to terminate tenancy, that the work will require longer than 3 months, the Landlord must file the petition within 15 days of first learning that the work will not be completed within 3 months.
  - (c) Petition and Response Contents. Rent Program staff will issue form petitions and responses that will specify the required contents.
  - (d) Priority. The nature and subject matter of the petition requires an expeditious decision on these petitions. The Rent Program will give priority to the hearing on the petition.
  - (e) Tenant Response. To expedite the Landlord's petition, no formal response from the Tenant will be required until the hearing. However, if the Tenant wishes to submit any documentary evidence (including pictures) in response to the Landlord's petition, the Tenant must file such evidence with the Rent Program and send a copy to the Landlord not less than 5 days prior to the hearing, unless the Tenant can show the evidence was unavailable at that time.
  - (f) Conduct of Hearings. Rent Program hearings contesting the rent for an available vacant unit are conducted in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rent Adjustment Program Regulation 8.22.090.
  - (g) Appeals. The hearing officer's decision may be appealed to the Rent Board within the time frame set forth in O.M.C. 8.22.120 and in accordance with Rent Adjustment Program Regulations. Rent Program staff may assign the appeal to a panel of the Board to expedite it.

- (h) Penalty. In addition to any other remedies a Tenant may have, a Landlord who fails to timely file a petition seeking an extension or unreasonably delays completing the repairs will forfeit one month of any rent increase based the repairs that necessitated the Tenant’s eviction for each month, or fraction thereof that the Tenant’s return is unreasonably delayed.
- b. Removal of Unit(s) or Change of Use Required by Code Violation.
- i. Purpose. The City of Oakland or other regulatory agency may require a Landlord to make repairs or corrections, or cease renting a unit or units in a building because the unit or building has been cited with a code violation. In such cases, often the Landlord is unwilling to make such repairs or corrections, or the corrections cannot be made without taking the unit(s) or building off the market, converting the unit(s) or building to another use, or demolishing the unit(s). This Regulation 8.22.360A(10)(b) applies to foregoing circumstances. Before this Regulation 8.22.360A(10)(b) was enacted, Landlords would often evict Tenants citing Regulation 8.22.360A(6) herein, which applies to circumstances where a Tenant has committed an illegal act on the premises, such as selling controlled substances. In those cases, while the eviction was through no fault of their own, Tenants were only given three days notice to vacate, and the evictions were often reported to credit reporting agencies as being related to illegal uses of the premises. This Regulation 8.22.360A(10)(b) is intended to provide Landlords with an appropriate mechanism for evicting a Tenant where a unit is being taken off the residential rental market due to a code violation.
  - ii. All Units Withdrawn from the Rental Market. If the City of Oakland or other regulatory agency has cited the building with a code violation, and the Landlord is unable or unwilling to make the necessary repairs or corrections, and all the residential units in the building are similarly affected and can be withdrawn from the residential rental market pursuant to the Ellis Act Ordinance (O.M.C. 8.22.400, et seq.), the Landlord must use the procedures and notice provisions of the Ellis Act Ordinance to take all the units off the market.
  - iii. Not All Units Withdrawn from the Rental Market. If the Landlord withdraws a unit from the residential rental market due to a code violation cited by the City of Oakland or other regulatory agency, and other units in the building will remain on the residential rental market, the Landlord must use the procedures and notice provisions of this Regulation 8.22.360A(10)(b)(v) to take the affected unit off the market.
  - iv. Units Subject to an “Imminent Hazard” – 72-Hour Notice to Vacate. Where the City or other public agency has issued a 72-hour notice to vacate (“red-tagged”) the unit or building, the provisions of the Just Cause Ordinance do not apply as this order to vacate is brought by the City or governmental entity and not the Landlord.

- v. Units or Buildings Wherein Corrections Cannot Be Made. If the Landlord determines that the corrections required to address the code violation(s) cannot be made to the unit or if the Landlord is unwilling to make the corrections and will cease renting the affected unit for residential purposes, the Landlord must do the following:
  - (a) Follow the eviction process established in California Civil Code § 1946 and § 1946.1 providing for a 30-day or 60-day notice period.
  - (b) Provide the information on the notice terminating tenancy required by O.M.C. 8.22.360A.10.c as follows:
    - 1. A statement informing Tenants as to any right to payment under the City of Oakland’s Code Compliance Relocation Ordinance (O.M.C. Chapter 15.60).
    - 2. A short, simple statement describing the violations or attaching the report noticing the violations and that the Landlord has decided that the Landlord will cease using the unit for residential rental purposes and terminate the Tenant’s tenancy. This information on the notice terminating tenancy must be signed under penalty of perjury.
    - 3. A statement that the termination of tenancy is brought in good faith, with honest intent, and without ulterior reasons, including but not limited to: retaliating against the Tenant, facilitating repairs or permits necessary to retain the unit(s) as residential, or to re-rent the unit(s). This information on the notice terminating tenancy must be signed under penalty of perjury.
    - 4. A statement that “If the needed repairs are completed on your unit, the Landlord must offer you the opportunity to return to your unit with a rental agreement containing the same terms as your original rental agreement and with the same rent (although the Landlord may be able to obtain a rent increase under the Oakland Residential Rent Program Ordinance (O.M.C. Chapter 8.22, Article 1). This statement only applies if your Landlord restores your unit to the residential rental market.”
    - 5. The lawful rent applicable for the unit on the date of the notice. [new reg 3/23/17]
  - (c) File the notice terminating the tenancy with the Rent Program as required by O.M.C. 8.22.360 B.7.

**8.22.360.B.4 - Notice to Cease Substantial Violation of Material Term of Tenancy.**

- a. The purpose of a “Notice to Cease” under O.M.C. 8.22.360 is to advise the Tenant of specific conduct that, if repeated, not stopped, or not cured, may cause the Tenant to be evicted.
- b. A Notice to Cease must state:
  - i. The term of tenancy or Just Cause Ordinance that has been violated;

- ii. With specificity the conduct that violates the term of the tenancy;
  - iii. The date(s) on which the conduct occurred, or if that date is not known to the Landlord, the approximate date on which conduct occurred.
  - iv. If the conduct is repeated, not stopped, or not cured, that the Landlord may initiate eviction proceedings against the Tenant. If the violation can be cured, the date by which the violation must be cured or a notice of termination of tenancy may be given. The Tenant must be given a reasonable opportunity to cure the violation.
- c. Service of Notice to Cease.
- i. Service of the notice to cease may be accomplished by any means authorized by California Civil Code § 1946. California Civil Code §1946 permits service by any one of the following means, either:
    - (a) By delivering a copy to the Tenant personally; or
    - (b) If he or she is absent from his or her place of residence, and from his or her usual place of business, by leaving a copy with some person of suitable age and discretion at either place, and sending a copy through the mail addressed to the Tenant at his or her place of residence; or
    - (c) If such place of residence and business can not be ascertained, or a person of suitable age or discretion there can not be found, then by affixing a copy in a conspicuous place on the property, and also delivering a copy to a person there residing, if such person can be found; and also sending a copy through the mail addressed to the Tenant at the place where the property is situated. Service upon a subtenant may be made in the same manner; or
    - (d) By sending a copy by certified or registered mail addressed to the other party.
- d. Effective Date of Notice to Cease.
- i. A Notice to Cease is effective upon receipt if:
    - (a) The notice is personally delivered to the Tenant;
    - (b) The notice is affixed to the property and a copy is personally delivered to a person residing there.
  - ii. A Notice to Cease is effective 5 days after the Notice is placed in the mails if:
    - (a) The notice is left with a person residing in the unit and mailed;
    - (b) The notice is delivered by certified or registered mail.
- e. Notice to Terminate Tenancy. If the conduct described in the notice is repeated, not stopped, or not cured within the cure period, the Landlord may serve a notice pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 1161.
- f. Further Interpretation. The notice to cease required by this section is similar to provisions addressing notices of default found in commercial leases. These provisions in commercial leases give the Tenant an opportunity to cure a default prior to being served with a notice to cure or quit or to terminate tenancy pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 1161. Landlords and Tenants may look to case

law interpreting such provisions in commercial leases for further guidance on addressing issues that may arise under this section.

- g. A Notice to Cease pursuant to Sections 8.22.360A 2, 4, 5 and 7 must give the Tenant at least 7 days after service to cure the violation. If the violation presents an immediate and substantial danger to persons or the property the Landlord may give the Tenant a notice that the violation must be corrected within 24 hours after service of the notice.
- h. Appendix A provides forms of notices to cease that are the preferred forms that Landlords may use where notices to cease are required by Section 8.22.360. Nothing herein precludes the use of a different notice to cease form, so long as it provides the information required by law.

**8.22.360.B.6.b- Notice of the Rent Adjustment Program.** [rev. 2/22/24]

The following statement, or other language conveying the same information, must be included in all notices terminating tenancy or notices to cure or quit regarding advice from the Rent Adjustment Program.

“Oakland has a number of laws and protections that apply to evictions. Parties seeking legal advice should consult with an attorney. For information regarding this notice, the eviction process, or for a list of legal organizations that may be able to assist you, you may contact the City’s Rent Adjustment Program (RAP) or visit their website:

Phone: (510) 238-3721

Email: [RAP@oaklandca.gov](mailto:RAP@oaklandca.gov)

Address: 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 5313, Oakland CA 94612

Website: <http://www.oaklandca.gov/RAP>.”

**8.22.360.B.8 - Owner Certifications for Certain No Tenant Fault Evictions.** [new reg 3/23/17]

- a. Scope of Regulations: The regulations in this section are designed to provide reporting requirements to better assure compliance with Sections 8.22.360A.8, A.9, A.10, and A.11 of the Oakland Municipal Code.
- b. Certifications to Rent Program Required for Eviction or Tenant Vacating Pursuant to O.M.C. Sections 8.22.360A.8 or A.9 (Owner or Relative Move In).
  - i. Initial certification following vacancy by Tenant. An Owner who evicts a Tenant pursuant to O.M.C. Sections 8.22.360 A.8 or A.9 or where a Tenant vacates following a notice terminating tenancy or other communication stating the Owner’s intent to seek recovery of possession of the unit under any of these O.M.C. Sections must submit to the Rent Program a completed certificate within thirty (30) days of the Tenant’s vacation of the unit. This certificate must include the amount of the Tenant’s rent on the date the Tenant vacated.

- ii. Certification Following Occupancy. The Owner or the designated qualifying relative must move in to the unit within three (3) months of the Tenant's vacation of the unit. Within 30 days of the Owner or the Owner's qualifying relative's commencing occupancy of the unit as a principal residence, the Owner must file a certificate attesting to the occupancy in addition to any evidence of occupancy as required by the certificate.
- iii. Continued Occupancy Certification. Following an Owner or qualifying relative occupying a unit pursuant to Sections 8.22.360A.9, the Owner must submit a certificate that the Owner or the Owner's qualifying relative continues to reside or not reside in the unit as a principal residence. The Owner must attach proof of residence in the unit, including but not limited to a copy of a valid California Driver's License or another government-issued form of identification showing the address of the unit. This certification must be provided every twelve (12) months from the initial move-in date for thirty-six (36) months following that move-in date.
- c. Certifications to Rent Program Required for Eviction or Tenant Vacating Pursuant to O.M.C. Section 8.22.360A.10 (Repairs or to Bring Unit in Compliance with Municipal Code or Other Laws Affecting Health and Safety of Tenants).
  - i. Initial Certification Following Vacancy by Tenant. An Owner who evicts a Tenant pursuant to Section 8.22.360A.10 or where a Tenant vacates following a notice terminating tenancy or other communication stating the Owner's intent to seek recovery of possession of the unit under this O.M.C. Section must submit to the Rent Program a completed certificate within thirty (30) days following the Tenant's vacation of the unit. This certificate must include the amount of the Tenant's rent on the date the Tenant vacated.
  - ii. Completion of Work. Within thirty (30) days following completion of the work that required the Tenant to vacate, the Owner must file a certificate that the Owner re-offered the unit to the Tenant.
- d. Certifications to Rent Program Required for Eviction or Tenant Vacating Pursuant to O.M.C. Section 8.22.360A.11 (Ellis Act).
  - i. Initial Certification Following Vacancy by Tenant. An Owner who evicts a Tenant pursuant to Section 8.22.360A.11 or where a Tenant vacates following a notice terminating tenancy or other communication stating the Owner's intent to seek recovery of possession of the unit under this O.M.C. Section must submit to the Rent Program a completed certificate within thirty (30) days following the Tenant's vacation of the unit. This certification must include the amount of the Tenant's rent on the date the Tenant vacated.
- e. Certifications to Rent Program upon Re-rental.
  - i. An Owner re-renting a unit to the former Tenant or a new Tenant following an eviction or Tenant voluntarily vacating under O.M.C. Sections 8.22.360A.8, A.9, and A.10 must certify the Rent amount within thirty (30) days of occupancy.

- f. Forms and Information Required as Part of Certifications.
  - i. Staff shall develop forms for required certificates.
  - ii. The certificates shall be filed under penalty of perjury.
  - iii. Staff is authorized to request supplemental information consistent with the purpose of each of these certifications.
- g. Notification of Failure to File.
  - i. Staff may, but is not required to, notify an Owner that a required filing was not made.
  - ii. Staff's not providing notification to an Owner of the Owner's failure to file does not excuse the Owner from filing, nor from any penalties from failing to file.
- h. Notification to New Owner and Filing Change of Ownership.
  - i. Whenever a unit or the property in which the unit is located changes ownership, the former Owner is required to notify the new Owner of the certification requirements.
  - ii. Whenever a unit or the property in which the unit is located changes ownership, the former Owner is required to notify the Rent Program of the change in ownership and the contact information for the new Owner.
- i. Penalties for Failing to File Certificate.
  - i. An Owner who fails to timely file any certificate after notice of the filing requirement may be assessed administrative citation pursuant to O.M.C. Chap. 1.12.
  - ii. An Owner who fails to timely file any certificate on more than one occasion after notice of the filing requirement, may be assessed a civil penalty pursuant to O.M.C. Chap. 1.08.

## **8.22.370 - Remedies.**

### **8.22.370.A - Remedies for Violation of Eviction Controls.**

1. This regulation addresses the standard that a Tenant who prevails in an unlawful detainer action must meet in order to recover against the Landlord who brought the unlawful detainer action. In order to recover actual damages against the Landlord, the Tenant must show that the Landlord did not have a reasonable basis for bringing the unlawful detainer action. A Landlord lacks a reasonable basis for bringing an unlawful detainer when the Landlord's dominant motive for bringing the eviction was not the stated reason for bringing the eviction or the Landlord lacked good faith in bringing the unlawful detainer. See O.M.C. 8.22.350 B2. The mere fact that the Landlord did not prevail is not sufficient for recovery of damages. In order to recover punitive damages in such an action, the Tenant must prove, in accordance with California Civil Code § 3294 "by clear and convincing evidence that the [Landlord] has been guilty of oppression, fraud, or malice."
2. This regulation addresses the liability standards when someone assists a Landlord who wrongfully endeavors to recover possession or recovers possession of a rental unit covered by the Just Cause Ordinance. For liability to attach to a person assisting a Landlord acting wrongfully, the person knew or, with the exercise of reasonable diligence, should have known that the Landlord's conduct was wrongful.
3. This regulation addresses the circumstance where a Landlord pursues an eviction based on a notice from the City of Oakland informing the Landlord that the Tenant is alleged to be engaging in, permitting, or using the premises to further certain illegal activities. When a Landlord pursues evicting a Tenant based on such a notice from the City, the Landlord is deemed to be acting in good faith in bringing the eviction action and is not engaged in wrongful conduct except under the following circumstances:
  - a. The Owner knew or should have known that that there was contrary or exculpatory evidence tending to show that the City's evidence is not sufficient to warrant the Tenant's eviction;
  - b. The City did not consider the additional evidence prior to issuing its notice to the Owner; and
  - c. The Owner did not seek reconsideration of the City's issuing the notice for the Tenant's eviction pursuant to O.M.C 8.23.100 F.2.e.ii based on the additional evidence.
4. This regulation addresses the circumstance where a Landlord brings an unlawful detainer to recover possession for owner/relative occupancy and the Tenant defends the eviction based on protected status under O.M.C. 8.22.360 A.9. The Landlord's conduct in bringing the unlawful detainer is deemed to be acting in good faith in bringing the eviction action and is not engaged in wrongful conduct under the following circumstances:

- a. The Tenant had not previously given a notice claiming protected status sufficiently in advance of the Landlord's serving the Tenant with the unlawful detainer complaint for the Landlord to have contested the Tenant's protect status claim with the Rent Program.
- b. The Tenant claims protected status as a defense to the unlawful detainer;
- c. The Landlord contests the Tenant's protected status claim reasonably and in good faith;
- d. The Landlord fails to dismiss the case within a reasonable time after the Landlord has had the opportunity for full discovery of the facts concerning the Tenant's protected status claim and the Tenant's protected status claim is supported by clear and convincing evidence.

**8.22.380 - Non-Waiverability.**

Nothing in the Ordinance is intended to prevent or interfere with parties entering into knowing, voluntary agreements for valuable consideration to settle disputes regarding possession of rental units. Any provision in a rental agreement or any amendment thereto which waives or modifies any provision of the Ordinance is contrary to public policy and void.

# Appendix A

**Notice to Cease  
(Oakland Municipal Code Sec. 8.22.300, et seq.)**

To [Tenants and all others in possession] at [address of rental unit]:

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**NOTICE TO CEASE**

Pursuant to the Just Cause for Eviction Ordinance (OMC 8.22.300), you are hereby notified that you are substantially violating the following material term(s) of your tenancy:

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(attach additional sheets if needed)

Specifically, you are engaging in the following conduct [include date and time or, if not known, approximate date]:

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(attach additional sheets if needed)

Please take notice that if the conduct described above is repeated, not stopped, or not cured, your Landlord may initiate eviction proceedings against you.

If you were personally given this letter, you have seven (7) days after the date you were given then notice to correct the violation. If the notice was either (a) left with a person residing in the unit and mailed or (b) mailed via certified or registered mail, you have twelve (12) days from the date of mailing to correct the violation. Should you repeat or fail to correct the violation within this time period, your Landlord may bring an eviction action against you.

Copies of the Just Cause for Eviction Ordinance and implementing regulations, information on mediation services, and referrals to legal service providers are available by contacting Oakland's Rent Adjustment Program, 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Fifth Floor, Oakland, CA 94612. Telephone (510) 238-3721; email [RAP@oaklandca.gov](mailto:RAP@oaklandca.gov).

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
**LANDLORD/LANDLORD'S AGENT**