

TMO Guide for completing Eviction Declaration

To prevent the spread of COVID, you could qualify for Eviction Protection until Dec 31

If you can truthfully check these five statements, you will qualify

1. ___ you have used “best efforts” to take advantage of government assistance for housing and rent?

If you live in Harris County, apply now to the joint City/County Rent Assistance program at www.bakerripleyrenthelp.org and that will show your “best efforts” whether you receive rent help or not.

Here are some additional ways you can show “best efforts” even if you never received any rent assistance.

- Call 211 and ask where you can get City or County rent assistance. Note date/time of call.
- Did you attempt to apply by phone or internet to the City or County but were unable to get through
- Did your landlord refuse to sign up for any of these rent assistance programs making it impossible for you to apply? What were your “best efforts” to seek rent help from a government source?

2. ___ **You meet income requirements, meaning ONE of the following:**

- a. You expect to earn less than \$99,000 in annual income in 2020 (or less than \$198,000 if filing a joint tax return);
- b. OR you were not required to pay taxes in 2019;
- c. OR you received an economic stimulus check (up to \$1200) earlier this year.

3. ___ **You are unable to pay your full rent or make a full housing payment due to substantial loss of household income – either due to loss of wages and other income sources *or* extraordinary medical costs.**

- a. Are your unreimbursed medical expenses at least 7.5 % of your adjusted gross income this year?

4. ___ **You are currently doing your best to make timely partial rent payments that are as close to the full payment as possible.**

5. ___ **If you are evicted, you would likely be rendered homeless, or forced to live in close quarters in a new shared living setting (living on the couch of a friend or family member, entering transitional housing, staying at a shelter, etc.)**

Do you Understand?

6. **and** 7. Do you understand that you still have to follow the lease agreement and any unpaid rent, late fees and interest will have to be fully paid once the temporary eviction moratorium expires on December 31, 2020?

If you answered all these questions YES, you qualify and can sign the Declaration.

Next Steps:

1. Every person who signed your lease must sign the Declaration.
2. Take a picture of the signed Declaration and take a picture as you deliver it to your landlord/ manager by hand or putting it in the rent collection box. Email yourself a copy of photos and audio file to save them.
3. Or send by fax, email, certified mail but keep a receipt that you sent it as proof you delivered it.
4. **This moratorium only goes into effect once you deliver the signed declaration to your landlord.**