

March 18, 2020

Dear Sheriff Doyle,

As legal and social service organizations serving Marin County, we are writing out of extreme concern for the low-income renters in our county affected by COVID-19. Not only is it vital to our community's health that residents stay housed during this pandemic, effective March 17th there is a legal order requiring residents to "shelter in place" across Marin County. This order remains in effect until April 7, 2020 and we ask that your Department exercise its discretion to cease removing tenants from their homes at least until that date.

If tenants are forcibly removed from their homes during this time, you place all of county citizens at increased risk. Currently, tenants are also without legal recourse since the self-help center is closed and the Superior Court is not hearing civil matters. We have had to reduce our services in order to protect our clients and staff and will also be unable to substantially assist tenants. Lastly, it is unlikely that there will be rentals available at this time due to the shelter in place order and the recommendations of health professionals to practice social distancing. Any removal of tenants would most likely render these families homeless and a potential health risk.

In this time of crisis, we trust that your Department will suspend forcibly evicting tenants from their homes and help keep our community safe and healthy.

Sincerely,



Omar Carrera, Chief Executive Officer
Canal Alliance



Stephanie Haffner, Executive Director
Legal Aid of Marin

