

Rights for Seniors in the Bay Area.



Legal Assistance for Seniors (LAS) & HICAP is continuing to deliver services during the shelter in place order. Due to court closure and government orders many things are on hold or moving slowly, but LAS can still be reached with questions regarding our services. We are not seeing clients in our office, but our full staff is working remotely and is available to assist seniors in the following areas:

Elder Abuse - LAS is trying to minimize contact with our vulnerable clients. If they have a support person who can assist them with filing out the paperwork and filing it for them, we will assist them via telephone. If it is an emergency and they do not have someone who can assist them, we will work to provide services.

Housing/Home safe- The Alameda County Sheriff is not currently enforcing evictions. The courts are closed so no new evictions can be filed at this time. Evictions that have been filed and have court dates are being continued for 3 weeks on a rolling basis.

Governor Gavin Newsom issued an executive order banning the enforcement of eviction orders for renters affected by COVID-19 through May 31, 2020. The order prohibits landlords from evicting tenants for nonpayment of rent and prohibits enforcement of evictions by law enforcement or courts. It also requires tenants to declare in writing, no more than seven days after the rent comes due, that the tenant cannot pay all or part of their rent due to COVID-19.

The tenant would be required to retain documentation but not required to submit it to the landlord in advance. And the tenant would remain obligated to repay full rent in a timely manner and could still face eviction after the enforcement moratorium is lifted. The order takes effect immediately, and provides immediate relief to tenants for whom rent is due on April 1st.

*Public Benefits -Public Benefits - Social Security is not collecting or processing new overpayments and "allegedly" not trying to reduce, suspend or delay anyone's benefits. [Social Security offices are closed since March 17th but you can call.](#) Waits are long. You can request an in-person meeting at the Social Security office, but will take a bit of time to get one. There are no in-person hearings right now. People have the right to ask for in person meetings but we do not know when that will start back up. The request for in-person hearings are being granted for now but *could* change --OHO is asking for flexibility and support at this time as they figure things out.*

HICAP – HICAP assists with Medicare and related health insurance questions and needs. Our HICAP counselors are providing phone counseling during this period and appointments are usually available on a daily basis.

Scams we've been alerted to -

- Scammers are approaching residents of senior housing and assisted living facilities about "opportunities" for COVID-19 testing*
- Beneficiaries are receiving robocalls about "special virus kits" and being asked for their Medicare number to send a "free" test*
- Health care agencies are receiving scam emails offering COVID-19 testing services that can be ordered through a telehealth provider*
- Online services offer a free vaccine in exchange for Medicare #*
- Fraudulent emails claim to be from the Centers for Disease Control or other experts offering information on the virus*
- Cybersecurity scammers send a link which implants PC ransomware*

If you need to reach LAS, please call 510-832-3040 and leave a message. If you would like to schedule a phone counseling appointment with HICAP, please call 510-893-0393. Please be patient, there may be delays in response time.

Information provided by Emeryville Senior Center. For more information visit:

<http://www.ci.emeryville.ca.us/list.asp?mode=del>