

Hello,

I am a small business woman who owns residential rental property in Portland and a one person property management business.

I have worked as a property manager since 1996 and have owned rental property since 1987.

In all my years as a landlord, I have only once evicted a tenant, not because he was unable to pay his rent but, because he would not communicate with me about his circumstances so I could work out a payment plan for him which left me no option.

Now I find myself in overwhelming distress.

Many of my tenants cannot pay their rent and will have the six months to regroup and figure out how to address their situation.

I, on the other hand, have mortgage payments due on April 1 and since I will not be collecting rent I will not be paid next month. My income is based on collecting rent. If I can't collect rent, I don't get paid, my property owners don't get paid, and neither they nor I can pay our mortgages and support our families.

I am about to lose everything.

I can't cover my mortgages without collecting rent.

I can't afford to go without my property management income for six months.

I am the only wage earner in my household of four.

I am doing everything I can to keep my business going and have apartment tours scheduled with potential tenants this week, but I don't even know how I can proceed with renting units because the rental laws went through significant and complex changes on March 1, changes so complex that even specialists in the field don't fully understand the new requirements, and all our training sessions have been cancelled.

I can't express my desperation. My oldest daughter was looking forward to attending college in the fall, but that now seems out of the question for our family.

I feel like Jimmy Stewart in It's A Wonderful Life. I have a life insurance policy that would bail my family out of this disaster and that fact has crossed my mind more than once. This is how hopeless my future looks to me right now.

I am begging you to immediately enact a suspension of mortgage payments and a suspension of the FAIR act which I cannot comprehend and follow without professional instruction.

I am truly at my wit's end.

Sincerely,

Lisa Long
Owner and Operator of High Five Properties Responsible landlord.

Single wage earner
parent
animal lover.