

I would like to tell you about my landlord's attempt to make me homeless over yard decorations. I live in a manufactured home community. In March 2021, management created a new rule in my lease limiting yard decorations to pristine condition only, and a maximum of six. When I refused, they eventually filed eviction proceedings, and we went to trial in December 2021.

What my management and landlords had:

- The ability to afford a lawyer.
- The ability to afford court costs.
- The ability to afford non-court costs, such as multiple notices, registered correspondence, etc.
- The ability to set the date for any court appearance.
- More than one week to get ready for a trial, since they had prior knowledge of when they were going to file.
- The ability to show up without losing income or job due to taking a day off.
- The ability to push forward with a known losing case.
- The ability to make up any financial loss by raising rent.
- The ability to sleep at night, and to not suffer from any other health-related problems due to the stress from wondering if you are about to lose your home.
- The ability to make neighbors fear to help me, as they know they can become future targets.

What I had:

- Nothing the management and landlords have that I listed above. Plus, added expenses of trying to gather support from neighbors. Management ensured my trial would be right after Christmas, so on Christmas I had to walk around in ice and snow trying to find neighbors who would be witnesses on my behalf.

My case was dismissed after the plaintiff (my landlord) rested. My lawyer did not even need to present my side of the case. The court ruled the yard decoration rule was not enforceable under ORS 90.510, and therefore not grounds for eviction.

I was lucky. Due to my flyers and petitions I put up, DontEvictPDX contacted me. They helped me with support and resources. Otherwise, I'd have been alone and desperate. I would have been unable to stand up for myself, let alone wade through the red tape involved in court requirements.

Ultimately, the attempt to evict me was not about "violating" my lease, nor was it about my yard decorations. It was about power. I had testimony ready in my case from multiple neighbors who would affirm that management told them not to worry about the new rule, as they were only using it to go after certain people.

Landlords and management should not have the power to make people suffer emotionally and financially just because they don't like their garden gnomes. Please pass SB 799. Thank you.