



**CITY OF OAKLAND**  
**RENT ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM**  
 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 5313  
 Oakland, CA 94612-0243  
 (510) 238-3721  
 CA Relay Service 711  
[www.oaklandca.gov/RAP](http://www.oaklandca.gov/RAP)

For Rent Adjustment Program date stamp.

## TENANT PETITION

**Please fill out this form as completely as you can.** Use this form to contest a rent increase, seek a rent decrease, and/or contest an owner exemption from the Rent Adjustment Program. Failure to provide the required information may result in your petition being rejected or delayed. See the last pages of this petition packet ("Important Information Regarding Filing Your Petition") or the RAP website for more information. **CONTACT A HOUSING COUNSELOR TO REVIEW YOUR PETITION BEFORE SUBMITTING.** To make an appointment email [RAP@oaklandca.gov](mailto:RAP@oaklandca.gov).

Rental Unit Information			
Street Number _____	Street Name _____	Unit Number _____	Oakland, CA _____ Zip Code _____
Move-in Date: _____ Initial Rent at Move-In: \$ _____ Current Rent: \$ _____			
Is your rent subsidized or controlled by a government agency (such as HUD or Section 8), other than Oakland Rent Adjustment Program? (See page 5 "Jurisdiction" for more information)			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Are you current on rent? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    (*Note: You must be current on your rent or lawfully withholding rent in order to file a petition. Checking "No" without providing an adequate explanation may result in your petition being dismissed.) <input type="checkbox"/> No*			
If not current on rent, explain why: _____			
When (if ever) did the property owner first provide you with the City form, NOTICE TO TENANTS OF THE RESIDENTIAL RENT ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM ("RAP Notice")? <input type="checkbox"/> I first received the RAP Notice on: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I was never provided with the RAP Notice <input type="checkbox"/> I do not remember if I ever received the RAP Notice			
Case number(s) of any relevant prior Rent Adjustment case(s): _____			
Tenant Information <i>(List each tenant petitioner in unit. If you need more space, attach additional sheet.)</i>			
_____ First Name _____ Last Name _____ Mailing Address (if different from above): _____ Primary Telephone: _____ Other Telephone: _____ Email: _____			
_____ First Name _____ Last Name _____ Mailing Address (if different from above): _____ Primary Telephone: _____ Other Telephone: _____ Email: _____			
Tenant Representative <i>(Check one):</i> <input type="checkbox"/> No Representative <input type="checkbox"/> Attorney <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Attorney			
_____ First Name _____ Last Name _____ Firm/Organization (if any) _____ Mailing Address: _____ Phone Number: _____ Email: _____			

Property Owner Information		
<i>Property Owner</i>		
_____	_____	
First Name	Last Name	
Company/LLC/LP (if applicable): _____		
Mailing Address: _____		
Phone Number: _____	Email: _____	
<i>Property Manager (if applicable)</i>		
_____	_____	_____
First Name	Last Name	Name of Management Company
Mailing Address: _____		
Phone Number: _____	Email: _____	

## GROUNDS FOR PETITION

**Select the grounds for this petition from the list below.** Check all that apply. You must check at least one box. To contest a rent increase, select item(s) from Category A. If you have experienced a decrease in housing services and/or have issues with the condition of your unit, or are being charged for utilities in violation of the law, select item(s) from Category B. For more information on each of the grounds, see Oakland Municipal Code (O.M.C.) Sections 8.22.070 and 8.22.090 (Rent Adjustment Ordinance) and the corresponding Regulations. A copy of the Ordinance and Regulations are available here: [www.oaklandca.gov/resources/read-the-oakland-rent-adjustment-program-ordinance](http://www.oaklandca.gov/resources/read-the-oakland-rent-adjustment-program-ordinance).

<b>A.</b>	<b>Unlawful Rent Increase(s)</b> <i>(Complete section A on page 3)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> (A1) I received a rent increase above the allowable amount.
		<input type="checkbox"/> (A2) I received a rent increase that I believe is unlawful because I was not given proper notice, was not properly served, and/or was not provided with the required RAP Notice ("Notice to Tenants of the Residential Rent Adjustment Program").
		<input type="checkbox"/> (A3) I received a rent increase and do not believe I should be required to pay it because a government agency has cited my unit for serious health, safety, fire, or building code violations. <b>(You must attach a copy of the citation to your petition.)</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>Decreased Housing Services</b> <i>(Complete section B on page 3)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> (B1) The property owner is providing me with fewer housing services than I previously received and/or I am being charged for services originally paid for by the owner. <b>(Check this box for petitions based on bad conditions/failure to repair.)</b>
		<input type="checkbox"/> (B2) I am being unlawfully charged for utilities.
<b>C.</b>	<b>Other</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> (C1) My rent was not reduced after a prior rent increase period for capital improvements.
		<input type="checkbox"/> (C2) I wish to contest an exemption from the Rent Adjustment Ordinance because the exemption was based on fraud or mistake.
		<input type="checkbox"/> (C3) The initial rent amount when I first moved in was unlawful because the property owner was not permitted to set the initial rent without limitation. O.M.C. § 8.22.080 (C).

A.	<b>Unlawful Rent Increase(s)</b>				
<i>(Complete this section if any of the grounds for petition fall under category A, above)</i>					
<p><b>List all rent increases you wish to contest.</b> Begin with the most recent increase and work backwards. If you never received the RAP Notice, you can contest all past increases. See the "Important Information" page at the end of this petition packet for more information on time limits for contesting rent increases. If you need additional space, attach a separate sheet or an additional copy of this form.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For petitions contesting a rent increase on the grounds that the unit has been cited by a government agency for serious health, safety, fire, or building code violations, <b>you must attach a copy of the citation</b> to your petition. Failure to attach a copy of the citation may result in your petition being dismissed.</li> </ul>					
		<b>Amount of increase:</b>		<b>Received RAP Notice with notice of rent increase?</b>	
Date received rent increase notice: (Month/Day/Year)	Date rent increase went into effect: (Month/Day/Year)	FROM	TO	YES	NO
		\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		\$	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

B.	<b>Decreased Housing Services</b>				
<i>(Complete this section if any of the grounds for petition fall under category B, above)</i>					
<p><b>List all the conditions that you believe entitle you to a rent decrease.</b> If your petition is based on problems related to your unit, or because the owner has taken away service(s) or is charging for services originally provided by the owner, you must complete this section. If you need more space, attach a separate sheet or an additional copy of this form.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>You are strongly encouraged to submit documentary evidence</b> (photographs, inspection reports, correspondence with your landlord, etc.) together with your petition. Evidence may be submitted up to seven calendar days prior to your hearing.</li> <li><b>You may wish to have a City inspector come inspect your unit</b> for possible code violations in advance of your hearing. Copies of any inspection report(s) may be submitted in support of your petition. To schedule an inspection, contact the City of Oakland Code Enforcement Unit at (510) 238-3381, or file a complaint online at <a href="https://www.oaklandca.gov/services/file-a-complaint-with-code-enforcement">https://www.oaklandca.gov/services/file-a-complaint-with-code-enforcement</a>. <i>Note: if additional items are cited in an inspection report that were not included in your original petition (below), you must file an additional petition listing those items in order for RAP staff to consider them as a part of your claim.</i></li> </ul>					
	<b>Description of problem or decreased housing service (list separately):</b>	<b>Date problem or decreased service started:</b> (Month/Day/Year)	<b>Date first notified owner or manager of problem:</b> (Month/Day/Year)	<b>Date problem or service was fixed, if ever:</b> (Month/Day/Year)	<b>What is the dollar value of your claimed loss?</b>
1.					\$
2.					\$
3.					\$
4.					\$

## TENANT VERIFICATION

(Required)

I/We declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to the laws of the State of California that everything I/we said in this Tenant Petition is true and that all of the documents attached to the Petition are true copies of the originals.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tenant 1 Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tenant 2 Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## CONSENT TO ELECTRONIC SERVICE

(Highly Recommended)

Check the box below if you agree to have RAP staff send you documents related to your case electronically. If you agree to electronic service, the RAP may send certain documents only electronically and not by first class mail.

- I/We consent to receiving notices and documents in this matter from the RAP electronically at the email address(es) provided in this response.

## MEDIATION PROGRAM

Mediation is an optional process offered by RAP to assist parties in settling the issues related to their Rent Adjustment case as an alternative to the formal hearing process. A trained third party will work with the parties prior to the hearing to see if a mutual agreement can be reached. If a settlement is reached, the parties will sign a binding agreement and there will not be a formal hearing. If no settlement is reached, the case will go to a formal hearing with a Rent Adjustment Hearing Officer, who will then issue a hearing decision.

Mediation will only be scheduled if both parties agree to mediate. Sign below if you agree to mediation in your case.

**I agree to have the case mediated by a Rent Adjustment Program staff mediator.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tenant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## INTERPRETATION SERVICES

If English is not your primary language, you have the right to an interpreter in your primary language/dialect at the Rent Adjustment hearing and mediation session. You can request an interpreter by completing this section.

- I request an interpreter fluent in the following language at my Rent Adjustment proceeding:

- Spanish (Español)  
 Cantonese (廣東話)  
 Mandarin (普通話)

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**-END OF PETITION-**



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## **NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER OF TENANT PETITION**

### **ATTENTION: IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED**

If you are receiving this NOTICE together with a completed TENANT PETITION form, it means that a tenant has filed a case against you with the Oakland Rent Adjustment Program (“RAP”) (commonly referred to as the “Rent Board”).

➤ **YOU MUST FILE A RESPONSE WITHIN 35 CALENDAR DAYS AFTER THE PETITION WAS MAILED TO YOU (30 DAYS IF DELIVERED IN-PERSON).**

➤ TO RESPOND:

- 1) Complete a **PROPERTY OWNER RESPONSE** form found on the RAP website.  
(<https://www.oaklandca.gov/services/respond-to-a-tenant-petition-for-the-rent-adjustment-program>)
- 2) Serve a copy of your **PROPERTY OWNER RESPONSE** form on the tenant (or the tenant’s representative listed on the petition) by mail or personal delivery.
- 3) Complete a **PROOF OF SERVICE** form (which is attached to the Response form and also available on the website) and provide a copy to the tenant (or tenant’s representative) together with your **PROPERTY OWNER RESPONSE** form.
- 4) Submit your **PROPERTY OWNER RESPONSE** form and completed **PROOF OF SERVICE\*** form to RAP through RAP’s online portal, via email, or by mail.

*\*Note: The Response will not be considered complete until a PROOF OF SERVICE is filed indicating that the tenant has been served with a copy.*

**DOCUMENT REVIEW:** The tenant is required to serve on you all documents the tenant filed in this case in addition to the petition. Additionally, all documents are available for review at RAP.

**FOR ASSISTANCE:** Contact a RAP Housing Counselor at (510) 238-3721 or by email at [RAP@oaklandca.gov](mailto:RAP@oaklandca.gov). Additional information is also available on the RAP website and on the PROPERTY OWNER RESPONSE form.



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## PROOF OF SERVICE

**NOTE: YOU ARE REQUIRED TO SERVE A COPY OF YOUR PETITION (PLUS ANY ATTACHMENTS) ON THE PROPERTY OWNER PRIOR TO FILING YOUR PETITION WITH RAP. You must include a copy of the RAP form "NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER OF TENANT PETITION" (the preceding page of this petition packet) and a completed PROOF OF SERVICE form together with your Petition.**

- 1) Use this PROOF OF SERVICE form to indicate the date and manner of service and the person(s) served.
- 2) Note: Email is not a form of allowable service on a party of a petition or response pursuant to the Ordinance.
- 3) Provide a completed copy of this PROOF OF SERVICE form to the person(s) being served together with the documents being served.
- 4) File a completed copy of this PROOF OF SERVICE form with RAP together with your Petition. Your Petition will not be considered complete until this form has been filed indicating that service has occurred.

On the following date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ I served a copy of (check all that apply):

- TENANT PETITION** plus \_\_\_\_ attached pages (number of pages attached to Petition not counting the Petition form, NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER OF TENANT PETITION, or PROOF OF SERVICE)
- NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER OF TENANT PETITION**
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

by the following means (check one):

- United States Mail.** I enclosed the document(s) in a sealed envelope or package addressed to the person(s) listed below and at the address(es) below and deposited the sealed envelope with the United States Postal Service, with the postage fully prepaid.
- Personal Service.** I personally delivered the document(s) to the person(s) at the address(es) listed below or I left the document(s) at the address(es) with some person not younger than 18 years of age.

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**PERSON(S) SERVED:**

Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip	

Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip	

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

\_\_\_\_\_

PRINTED NAME

\_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_

DATE SIGNED

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING FILING YOUR PETITION

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## TIME TO FILE YOUR PETITION

Your Tenant Petition form must be received by the Rent Adjustment Program within the required time limit for filing. RAP staff cannot grant an extension of time to file your Petition.

- For Petitions contesting a rent increase, you have 90 days from the date of notice of increase or from the first date you received the RAP Notice (whichever is later) to file a Petition. If you did not receive a RAP Notice with the rent increase you are contesting but have received one in the past, you have 120 days to file a Petition. If you have never received a RAP Notice, you may contest all rent increases.
- For Petitions claiming decreased housing services, you have 90 days from either the date you first became aware of the decreased service or the date you first received the RAP Notice (whichever is later) to file a Petition. If the decreased housing service is ongoing, you may file a Petition at any time. See O.M.C. §§ 8.22.090 (A)(2)-(3) for more information.

## CONTACT A HOUSING COUNSELOR TO REVIEW YOUR PETITION BEFORE SUBMITTING

To make an appointment, email [RAP@oaklandca.gov](mailto:RAP@oaklandca.gov) or call (510) 238-3721. Although the Housing Resource Center is temporarily closed for drop-in services, assistance is available by email or telephone.

## DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF PETITION

All attachments submitted together with your Petition must be numbered sequentially. You may submit additional evidence in support of your Petition up to seven days before your hearing<sup>1</sup>. You must serve a copy of any documents filed with RAP on the other party and submit a PROOF OF SERVICE form.

*REMINDER:* Once a petition and its attachments are submitted to the RAP they become public records. Please redact any private information (such as social security numbers, bank account numbers, credit card numbers and similar financial data) from the documents you submit as part of this petition. If you have any questions, you may contact RAP staff at (510) 238-3721 or by email at [RAP@oaklandca.gov](mailto:RAP@oaklandca.gov).

Additionally, all documents submitted to the RAP, including but not limited to emails, petitions, attachments, potential evidence, text messages, screenshots, etc., are a part of the file in your case and all parties to a case are entitled to have access to this information.

## SERVICE ON PROPERTY OWNER

You are required to serve ALL the following documents on the property owner and/or the property owner's representative:

1. Copy of RAP form entitled "NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER OF TENANT PETITION" (*included in petition packet and available on RAP website*).
2. Copy of completed Petition form and attachments.
3. Completed PROOF OF SERVICE form (*included in petition packet and available on RAP website*).

You may serve the property owner and/or the owner's representative by mail or personal delivery. A copy of the completed PROOF OF SERVICE form must be submitted to RAP together with your Petition. Your Petition will not be considered complete until a PROOF OF SERVICE form is filed indicating that the owner has been served. Note that you cannot serve a Petition by email, even if you have an agreement to electronic service between the parties, because the Ordinance requires service by mail or in person.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that certain documents are required to be submitted with the Petition. See petition for details.



## FILING YOUR PETITION

Although RAP normally does not accept filings by email or fax, RAP is temporarily accepting Petitions via email during the COVID-19 local state of emergency. You may also fill out and submit your Petition online through the RAP website or deliver the Petition to the RAP office by mail. If the RAP office is closed on the last day to file, the time to file is extended to the next day the office is open. If you send your Petition by mail, a postmark date does not count as the date it was received. Remember to file a PROOF OF SERVICE form together with your Petition.

**Via email:** [hearingsunit@oaklandca.gov](mailto:hearingsunit@oaklandca.gov)

**Mail to:** City of Oakland  
Rent Adjustment Program  
250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Ste. 5313  
Oakland, CA 94612-0243

**File online:** <https://www.oaklandca.gov/services/file-a-tenant-petition>

**In person:** TEMPORARILY CLOSED  
City of Oakland  
Dalziel Building, 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza Suite  
5313 Reception area  
*Use Rent Adjustment date-stamp to stamp your documents to verify timely delivery and place them in RAP self-service drop box.*

## AGREEMENT TO ELECTRONIC SERVICE

If you have agreed to electronic service from the RAP by signing the Consent to Electronic Service on page 4 of the petition, you have agreed to receive electronic service from the Rent Adjustment Program only, and not from the other parties to the case.

## AFTER PETITION IS FILED

The property owner has 30 days after service of the Petition to file a Response (35 days if served by mail). The property owner must serve you with a copy of their Response form and any attachments filed with the Response. In most cases, RAP will schedule a hearing. You will be mailed a Notice of Hearing indicating the hearing date. If you are unable to attend the hearing, contact RAP as soon as possible. The hearing will only be postponed for good cause.

## FILE/DOCUMENT REVIEW

Either party may contact RAP to review the case file and/or to request copies of any documents pertaining to the case at any time prior to the scheduled hearing.

## JURISDICTION

Please note that if your rent is controlled or subsidized by any other governmental agency, your unit is not covered by the Rent Adjustment Ordinance and the Oakland Rent Adjustment Program does not have jurisdiction over your claim. O.M.C. § 8.22.030 (A)(1).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Additional information on the petition and hearing process is located on the RAP website and in the Residential Rent Adjustment Program Ordinance and Regulations (see Oakland Municipal Code 8.22.010 *et seq.*). For more

information on rent increases, including the list of the annual allowable CPI rates and calculators for certain justifications, see: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/resources/learn-more-about-allowable-rent-increases> or you can refer to the Guide on Oakland Rental Housing Law at <https://cao-94612.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/Guide-to-Oakland-Rental-Housing-Law-1.pdf>. You may also contact a RAP Housing Counselor with questions at any time by emailing [RAP@oaklandca.gov](mailto:RAP@oaklandca.gov) or calling (510) 238-3721.