



# MLP ALERT

Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Hawai'i (MLPC)

## POSTPONEMENT OF EVICTION ACTIONS

Dear Providers:

On March 17, 2020, Governor Ige issued a host of new orders in an effort to stop the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Hawaii islands. Among several other provisions, the governor stated that he intended to halt foreclosures, evictions for non-payment of rent, and suspend termination and disconnections of essential utilities.

Separately, the Department of Public Safety had previously announced that it would be suspending eviction actions and the Hawaiian Electric Company also indicated that it would be suspending disconnections for non-payment of utilities until at least April 17, 2020. The State Judiciary, as part of a comprehensive Statewide order, also indicated that private landlord-tenant matters would be postponed until at least Thursday April 30, 2020.

While the Hawaii Public Housing Authority has not provided a definite date on when it will resume eviction actions for public housing, we strongly believe that the department will follow Governor Ige's directives, and suspend all internal eviction actions until further notice. These projected timelines and orders apply only to landlord tenant matters in the State of Hawaii.

We thank you for your continued support and efforts during this time.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

*The Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Hawaii*

Please see following link for the Hawaii News Now article detailing Governor Ige's March 17th orders:

<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2020/03/18/live-governor-discuss-latest-efforts-stem-spread-coronavirus/>

Please see following link for the most recent news from Governor Ige's office

<https://governor.hawaii.gov/category/newsroom/latest-news/>



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## TIPS FOR ASSISTING YOUR CLIENTS

### **If you can, you should continue to pay rent and bills.**

Rent and bills have not been forgiven, so they will likely be due after the "Stay at Home" order ends.

### **If you can't afford to pay rent or bills, report immediately and document everything.**

Try to call or email your landlord to explain your situation. Some private landlords may be willing to reduce or forgive rent during this emergency. Document your communication (keep copies of emails, letters, and notes about calls). Keep notes about when you called, who you spoke with, what you said. If you can only leave a message, keep notes about when you called, who you left a message with, and what you said. Be sure to indicate that you are experiencing such circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic (termination of employment, reduction in hours, inability to work due to "Stay at Home" Order, etc.).

### **If you live in public housing, report your change in household income as soon as possible.**

Use the attached form or other method to document the date your work stopped. Share copies of work documents (termination letters, final paystubs, etc.) with your housing manager when you get them. Keep copies for yourself and document all communications. When reporting income changes, be sure to indicate that you are experiencing such circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic (termination of employment, reduction in hours, inability to work due to "Stay at Home" Order, etc.).

### **If you were in eviction proceedings before the coronavirus crisis, your case will resume after the shelter orders are lifted.**

If you can fix the problems related to your eviction (for example, catch up on rent, make new arrangements with your landlord or manager), you may be able to avoid eviction when the courts reopen after April 30, 2020.

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