

CITY-FUNDED LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR ALL RESIDENTIAL TENANTS IN EVICTION LAWSUITS

The City and County of San Francisco (“City”) does not provide legal representation to San Francisco tenants who face eviction from their homes. The City does fund nonprofit organizations that provide free legal representation to some San Francisco tenants who face eviction.

Before a landlord may evict a tenant the landlord must give the tenant a written notice that the landlord intends to do so. If a tenant does not move after receiving that eviction notice, then the landlord may file a lawsuit asking a court to order eviction.

Each year the Board of Supervisors adopts a budget that sets the funding for all City programs.

The Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development administers City programs to create and preserve affordable housing in San Francisco.

This measure would require the City to establish, fund and run a program to provide legal representation for all residential tenants in San Francisco whose landlords are attempting to evict them from where they live.

The measure would require the City to provide a lawyer for a tenant within 30 days after the tenant receives an eviction notice or a lawsuit seeking eviction. The lawyer would provide legal representation to the tenant until the notice is withdrawn or the lawsuit is resolved. The measure would not require the City to provide legal representation to tenants who reside in the same dwelling unit with their landlord.

The measure would require the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development to implement this program within 12 months after the measure becomes effective.

Also, this measure would adopt a policy that, “San Francisco tenants facing an eviction from their home shall have a right to legal representation in eviction proceedings and the City and County shall provide such legal representation to tenants to assist in the fair administration of justice.”