

504B.205 RESIDENTIAL TENANT'S RIGHT TO SEEK POLICE AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** In this section, "Domestic abuse" has the meaning given in section 518B.01, subdivision 2.

Subd. 2. **Emergency calls permitted.** (a) A landlord may not:

(1) bar or limit a residential tenant's right to call for police or emergency assistance in response to domestic abuse or any other conduct; or

(2) impose a penalty on a residential tenant for calling for police or emergency assistance in response to domestic abuse or any other conduct.

(b) A residential tenant may not waive and a landlord may not require the residential tenant to waive the residential tenant's right to call for police or emergency assistance.

Subd. 3. **Local preemption.** This section preempts any inconsistent local ordinance or rule including, without limitation, any ordinance or rule that:

(1) requires an eviction after a specified number of calls by a residential tenant for police or emergency assistance in response to domestic abuse or any other conduct; or

(2) provides that calls by a residential tenant for police or emergency assistance in response to domestic abuse or any other conduct may be used to penalize or charge a fee to a landlord.

This subdivision shall not otherwise preempt any local ordinance or rule that penalizes a landlord for, or requires a landlord to abate, conduct on the premises that constitutes a nuisance or other disorderly conduct as defined by local ordinance or rule.

Subd. 4. **Residential tenant responsibility.** This section shall not be construed to condone or permit any breach of a lease or of law by a residential tenant including, but not limited to, disturbing the peace and quiet of other tenants, damage to property, and disorderly conduct.

Subd. 5. **Residential tenant remedies.** A residential tenant may bring a civil action for a violation of this section and recover from the landlord \$250 or actual damages, whichever is greater, and reasonable attorney's fees.

Subd. 6. **Attorney general authority.** The attorney general has authority under section 8.31 to investigate and prosecute violations of this section.

History: 1999 c 199 art 1 s 22