


<p>California Department of Justice DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT Edward Medrano, Chief</p> 	<h1>INFORMATION BULLETIN</h1>	
<p><i>Subject:</i></p> <p>Executive Order N-37-20: Request for Sheriffs to Serve or Enforce a Writ of Possession</p>	<p><i>No.</i></p> <p>2020-DLE-04</p> <p><i>Date:</i></p> <p>4/8/2020</p>	<p><i>Contact for information:</i></p> <p>Edward Medrano, Chief Division of Law Enforcement (916) 210-6300</p>

TO: ALL CALIFORNIA SHERIFFS

Summary

California Sheriffs have a critical role in ensuring that the rights of all parties are respected during evictions. A recent Executive Order issued by Governor Gavin Newsom prevents enforcement of writs of possession to evict a tenant who cannot fully pay rent for certain reasons related to the COVID-19 public health emergency. A copy of the Executive Order, numbered N-37-20, (the Order) is available at <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.27.20-EO-N-37-20.pdf>. This information bulletin provides information for Sheriffs on actions to take if they receive a request to serve or enforce a Writ of Possession that may be affected by the Order.

Governor Newsom’s March 27 Executive Order and Other Local Protections

On March 27, 2020, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order that makes temporary changes to the eviction process in California. Under the Executive Order, until May 31, 2020, “[n]o writ may be enforced . . . to evict a tenant from a residence or dwelling unit for nonpayment of rent who satisfies” certain requirements to show an inability to pay the full amount of rent due to reasons related to the current public health emergency. The Executive Order details the requirements that a tenant must meet to qualify for this protection.

How to Respond

If a Sheriff is serving or enforcing a Writ of Possession is unsure whether a tenant who claims the protections of the Executive Order qualifies for those protections, the Sheriff should seek guidance from the court that issued the Writ before taking steps to enforce it.

Local Protections

Some California cities and counties have also taken action to help tenants during the COVID-19 crisis. California Sheriffs should consult with their county counsel concerning applicable local protections and how they may impact the service or enforcement of Writs of Possession.

The point of contact for questions regarding this bulletin is Nicklas A. Akers, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Consumer Law Section of the California Department of Justice.

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