

On August 19, 2020, Governor Kelly issued an Executive Order. Executive Orders are formal directions from the Governor. They are not laws. They are limited in the power they can exercise. In times of emergency, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor can use Executive Orders to get things done quickly without the need to pass a law.

Executive Order 20-61 is titled “Temporarily prohibiting certain foreclosures and evictions.” The order can be found here: <https://governor.kansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/EO-20-61-Reissued-Evictions-and-Foreclosures-Executed.pdf>

This order says if people are not able to pay their rent or their house note because of COVID-19, they cannot be evicted or have their home foreclosed on. Eviction is the legal process of having a renter removed from the place they live. Foreclosure is the legal process of having people purchasing a home removed from the home because they did not make their payments.

The reason the renter or homeowner cannot make their payments must be related to COVID-19. Examples would be if someone has lost their job, or had their hours reduced because of limited business. Reasons also include if someone has to stay home to take care of a child who is not in school or a family member who is ill.

The Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas (SILCK) has a Housing group. The SILCK is a group of people with disabilities in Kansas who make a plan for independent living for the state. The plan guides advocates and service providers in supporting the independent living of people with disabilities. The Plan has workgroups that all work on specific issues. One of the workgroups works on housing issues for people with disabilities.

The Housing group made the following form to help people who cannot pay their rent or their house payment because of COVID-19. If people CAN pay their rent and house payment, they should continue to do that. But if they cannot, they can use this form to let their landowner or lender know they are asking for the protection from the Executive Order.

If you need help with this form, please call an advocate at your local Center for Independent Living.