

Don't Pay Too Much! Stop Price Gouging!

The President and California have declared a state of emergency due to the Coronavirus (COVID 19). This means businesses can't raise their prices too much.

What is price gouging?

When the government declares that there is an emergency, price increases are limited to no more than 10%. If a business raises the prices more than 10% that is called "price gouging."

Is price gouging illegal? Yes, after an emergency is declared by any local, state or federal government. The limit lasts for 30 days from the date of the emergency declaration in the area of the emergency.

Report Price Gouging—it is a Crime.

Price gouging is a crime. Call the local District Attorney's office or the State Attorney General and report the business.

If you are a victim of price gouging you can sue the business. .

What things are covered?

Prices can't be raised more than 10% after an Emergency Declaration for:

- food and drinks
- emergency cleanup items and services
- emergency supplies including but not limited to water, flashlights, radios, batteries, candles, blankets, soaps, diapers, toiletries, building materials.
- medical supplies including prescription and nonprescription medications, bandages, antibacterial cleaners, etc.
- home heating oil
- building materials
- transportation for moving and storage

- moving expenses, property storage, and towing services
- gas (gasoline, diesel)
- rent (residential housing rent)
- motel/hotel costs

If the business' costs went up, they may be able to raise their price more than 10%.

Special Medical and Emergency Supplies Rule

The Governor declared that due to the Coronavirus, businesses can't raise prices more than 10% for medical and emergency supplies through September 4, 2020.

Special Construction Rules

There is a special rule for repair, reconstruction, or clean-up services. Businesses can't raise prices more than 10% for 180 days. They can only raise prices more than 10% if their costs went up.

Special rules for rent increases.

For most tenants, rent can't be increased by more than 10% for 30 days. There are some exceptions. Local or state rent control laws may also limit increases. Call the number below for free legal advice.

Can my landlord evict me just to raise the rent?

No. Also, if the landlord evicts a tenant for any reason during the emergency declaration period, the landlord cannot charge the new tenant more than 10% paid by the prior tenant.

**For Free Legal Help,
Call 1-800-433-6251**