



Rental Owners and Residents Cannot Be Penalized for Emergency Calls

Pennsylvania municipalities can no longer penalize residents or rental owners for summoning emergency or police assistance. Act 200 of 2014, which became effective in January of 2015, put a stop to the so-called nuisance ordinances several Pennsylvania municipalities had enacted that required evicting residents who make repeated calls for police or emergency aide. The legislation's stated intention is to shield residents, tenants and landlords from penalties where police or emergency services respond to a residence or tenancy to assist victims of abuse or crime, or individuals in an emergency. The law's purpose is to prevent municipalities from limiting people's ability to seek help from police and punish victims for criminal activity committed against them.