

FORM 3

NOTICE FROM TENANT TO LANDLORD--TERMINATION FOR  
FAILURE OF LANDLORD TO MAINTAIN PREMISES AS REQUIRED  
BY FLORIDA STATUTE 83.51(1) OR MATERIAL PROVISIONS  
OF THE RENTAL AGREEMENT

INSTRUCTIONS

Tenant should carefully review Sections 83.51(1) and 83.51(2) Florida Statutes and the rental agreement and should ensure that the violations by the Landlord alleged by the Tenant in the notice do, in fact, exist. The Tenant's right to terminate the rental agreement exists only after giving the notice and if the Landlord materially fails to maintain the premises as required by section 83.51 or material provision of the rental agreement. Section 83.51(1) provides as follows:

83.51 Landlord's obligation to maintain premises.

(1) The Landlord at all times during the tenancy shall:

- (a) Comply with the requirements of applicable building, housing, and health codes; or
- (b) Where there are no applicable building, housing, or health codes, maintain the roofs, windows, screens, doors, floors, steps, porches, exterior walls, foundations, and all other structural components in good repair and capable of resisting normal forces and loads and the plumbing in reasonable working condition. However, the Landlord shall not be required to maintain a mobile home or other structure owned by the Tenant.

The Landlord's obligations under this subsection may be modified by the lease in the case of a single-family home or duplex.

- (2) (a) Unless otherwise agreed in writing, in addition to the requirements of subsection (1), the landlord of a dwelling unit other than a single-family home or duplex shall, at all times during the tenancy, make reasonable provisions for:
  - 1. The extermination of rats, mice, roaches, ants, wood-destroying organisms, and bedbugs. When vacation of the premises is required for such extermination, the landlord shall not be liable for damages but shall abate the rent. The tenant shall be required to temporarily vacate the premises for a period of time not to exceed 4 days, on 7 days' written notice, if necessary, for extermination pursuant to this subparagraph.
  - 2. Locks and keys.
  - 3. The clean and safe condition of common areas.
  - 4. Garbage removal and outside receptacles therefor.
  - 5. Functioning facilities for heat during winter, running water, and hot water.
- (b) Unless otherwise agreed in writing, at the commencement of the tenancy of a single-family home or duplex, the landlord shall install working smoke detection devices. As used in this paragraph, the term "smoke detection device" means an electrical or battery-operated device which detects visible or invisible particles of combustion and which is listed by

Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., Factory Mutual Laboratories, Inc., or any other nationally recognized testing laboratory using nationally accepted testing standards.

- (c) Nothing in this part authorizes the tenant to raise a noncompliance by the landlord with this subsection as a defense to an action for possession under s. 83.59.
  - (d) This subsection shall not apply to a mobile home owned by a tenant.
  - (e) Nothing contained in this subsection prohibits the landlord from providing in the rental agreement that the tenant is obligated to pay costs or charges for garbage removal, water, fuel, or utilities.
- (3) If the duty imposed by subsection (1) is the same or greater than any duty imposed by subsection (2), the landlord's duty is determined by subsection (1).
  - (4) The landlord is not responsible to the tenant under this section for conditions created or caused by the negligent or wrongful act or omission of the tenant, a member of the tenant's family, or other person on the premises with the tenant's consent.

SOURCE: Section 83.56, Florida Statutes (2007).

FORM NOTES ARE FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND MAY NOT COMPLETELY DESCRIBE REQUIREMENTS OF FLORIDA LAW. YOU SHOULD CONSULT AN ATTORNEY AS NEEDED.

NOTICE FROM TENANT TO LANDLORD--TERMINATION FOR  
FAILURE OF LANDLORD TO MAINTAIN PREMISES AS REQUIRED  
BY FLORIDA STATUTE 83.51(1) OR MATERIAL PROVISIONS  
OF THE RENTAL AGREEMENT

To:	
	Landlord's Name (or Landlord's authorized representative, resident manager, or the person who collects the rent from the Landlord)
	Address
	City, State, Zip Code
From:	
Date:	
Re:	Seven Day Notice of Noncompliance to Landlord

This is to inform you that you are not maintaining my dwelling unit as required by Florida Statute 83.51(1) and our rental agreement. If you do not complete the following repairs, non-compliance, violations, or default in the next seven days, I intend to terminate the rental agreement, move out, and hold you responsible for any damages resulting from the termination:

[list Landlord's violations, non-compliance, or default]

Tenant's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address, Unit Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Approved for use under rule 10-2.1(a) of  
the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar

The Florida Bar 2010

This form was completed  
with the assistance of:  
Name:  
Address:  
Telephone Number: