

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 3, 2008 to June 13, 2009

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 12, 2009

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IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2009

the landlord's agent has made at least 3 good faith efforts to serve the tenant, that service may be accomplished by both mailing the notice by first class mail to the tenant's last known address and by leaving the notice at the tenant's last and usual place of abode. In cases when the tenant has paid rent through the date when a 30-day notice would expire, the notice must expire on or after the date through which the rent has been paid. Either party may waive in writing the 30 days' notice at the time the notice is given, and at no other time prior to the giving of the notice. A termination based on a 30-day notice is not affected by the receipt of money, whether previously owed or for current use and occupation, until the date a writ of possession is issued against the tenant during the period of actual occupancy after receipt of the notice. When the tenancy is terminated, the tenant is liable to the process of forcible entry and detainer without further notice and without proof of any relation of landlord and tenant unless the tenant has paid, after service of the notice, rent that accrued after the termination of the tenancy. These provisions apply to tenancies of buildings erected on land of another party. Termination of the tenancy is deemed to occur at the expiration of the time fixed in the notice. A 30-day notice under this paragraph and a 7-day notice under subsection 2 may be combined in one notice to the tenant.

Sec. 2. 14 MRSA §6002, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1999, c. 248, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

1. Causes for 7-day notice of termination of tenancy. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, the tenancy may be terminated upon 7 days' written notice in the event that the landlord can show, by affirmative proof, that:

A. The tenant, the tenant's family or an invitee of the tenant has caused substantial damage to the demised premises that the tenant has not repaired or caused to be repaired before the giving of the notice provided in this subsection;

B. The tenant, the tenant's family or an invitee of the tenant caused or permitted a nuisance within the premises, has caused or permitted an invitee to cause the dwelling unit to become unfit for human habitation or has violated or permitted a violation of the law regarding the tenancy; or

C. The tenant is 7 days or more in arrears in the payment of rent.

If a tenant who is 7 days or more in arrears in the payment of rent pays the full amount of rent due before the expiration of the 7-day notice in writing, that notice is void. Thereafter, in all residential tenancies at will, if the tenant pays all rental arrears, all rent due as of the date of payment and any filing fees and service of process fees actually expended by the landlord before the issuance of the writ of possession as provided

by section 6005, then the tenancy must be reinstated and no writ of possession may issue.

In the event that the landlord or the landlord's agent has made at least 3 good faith efforts to personally serve the tenant in-hand, that service may be accomplished by both mailing the notice by first class mail to the tenant's last known address and by leaving the notice at the tenant's last and usual place of abode.

Payment or written assurance of payment through the general assistance program, as authorized by the State or a municipality pursuant to Title 22, chapter 1161, has the same effect as payment in cash.

Sec. 3. 14 MRSA §6002, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1999, c. 248, §2, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

2. Ground for termination notice. A notice of termination issued pursuant to subsection 1 must indicate the specific ground claimed for issuing the notice.

A. If a ground claimed is rent arrearage of 7 days or more, the notice must also include a statement:

(1) Indicating the amount of the rent that is 7 days or more in arrears as of the date of the notice; and

(2) Setting forth the following notice: "If you pay the amount of rent due as of the date of this notice before this notice expires, then this notice as it applies to rent arrearage is void. After this notice expires, if you pay all rental arrears, all rent due as of the date of payment and any filing fees and service of process fees actually paid by the landlord before the writ of possession issues at the completion of the eviction process, then your tenancy will be reinstated."

B. If the notice states an incorrect rent arrearage or contains any other clerical errors that do not significantly or materially alter the purpose or understanding of the notice, the notice cannot be held invalid if the landlord can show the error was unintentional.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 172

H.P. 668 - L.D. 966

An Act To Amend the Licensing Requirements for Marriage and Family Therapists

Be it enacted by the People of the State of
Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §13858, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2003, c. 542, §2, is further amended to read:

3. Licensed marriage and family therapist. To be qualified as a licensed marriage and family therapist, an applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the board adherence to the ethics of the counseling profession, successfully complete the examination prescribed by the board and have:

A. A master's degree or a doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy or its equivalent from an accredited institution or a program approved by the board. Such schooling must include a minimum core curriculum to include a one-year clinical practicum and total credit hours adopted by the board; and

B. Two years of experience after obtainment of a master's degree or a doctoral degree comprised of at least 1,000 hours of direct clinical contact with couples and families and 200 hours of supervision, at least 100 of which must be individual supervision.

Notwithstanding the requirements for conditional licensure in section 13851, subsection 4, the board may grant a temporary conditional license for a period not to exceed 6 months to an applicant who meets the requirements of this subsection except for the successful completion of the examination prescribed by the board. In addition, the applicant must be employed at an agency under clinical supervision and must apply for and successfully complete the examination within this 6-month period. If the applicant fails the examination, the applicant is prohibited from using any clinical experience gained during the 6-month period that the applicant held the temporary conditional license to qualify for licensure.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL
REGULATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Administrative Services - Professional and
Financial Regulation 0094**

Initiative: Allocates one-time funds for the costs associated with establishing a new license category in the agency's licensing system.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2009-10	2010-11
All Other	\$2,500	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$2,500	\$0

Licensing and Enforcement 0352

Initiative: Allocates one-time funding for the costs associated with rulemaking.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2009-10	2010-11
All Other	\$1,500	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$1,500	\$0

**PROFESSIONAL AND
FINANCIAL
REGULATION,
DEPARTMENT OF**

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2009-10	2010-11
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$4,000	\$0
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$4,000	\$0

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 173

S.P. 403 - L.D. 1085

**An Act Concerning Dispute
Resolution in Home
Construction Contracts**

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of
Maine as follows:**

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §1487, sub-§8, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 574, is amended to read:

8. Resolution of disputes. A statement allowing the parties the option to adopt one of 3 methods of resolving contract disputes in addition to the option of a small claims action. At a minimum, this statement must provide the following information:

"If a dispute arises concerning the provisions of this contract or the performance by the parties that may not be resolved through a small claims action, then the parties agree to settle this dispute by jointly paying for one of the following (check only one):

(1) Binding arbitration ~~as regulated by~~ under the Maine Uniform Arbitration Act, ~~with in~~ in which the parties ~~agreeing~~ agree to accept as final the arbitrator's decision ();

(2) Nonbinding arbitration, with the parties free to ~~not accept~~ reject the arbitrator's decision