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Residential Lease Agreement

State of Vermont

Homes this form does not cover

This form was not written for manufactured or mobile homes, condominiums or co-ops, or subsidized housing.

Key terms

Home: _____

Landlord: _____

Tenant: _____

Term: From _____ to _____, or month to month

Rent: $_____ a month, due on the _____ day

Security deposit: $_____

Late fee: See Late fee below

Utilities Tenant pays: _____

1. Who this lease is between

This lease is between _____ ("Landlord") and _____ ("Tenant"). If more than one person signs as Tenant, "Tenant" means each of them.

Tenant's phone: _____.

2. Owner, manager and legal papers

Landlord's mailing address is _____.

Landlord's phone number is _____.

Landlord's email is _____.

Who owns the home (tick one):

☐ Landlord signs this lease as property manager or agent for the owner: _____, _____.

☐ Landlord owns the home.

The person who accepts notices and legal papers for Landlord is _____, at

_____. Landlord will tell Tenant in writing if any of these details change.

3. Emergency and repairs contact

In an emergency, call 911 first if anyone is in danger. The emergency contact for an urgent problem with the home, such as a burst pipe or no heat in cold weather, is _____, at any hour.

Send repair requests to _____.

4. Who lives in the home

The people who sign as Tenant and these other people may live in the home: _____. No more than _____ people may live in the home.

A child born to, adopted by or placed with Tenant during this lease may live in the home. Tenant will tell Landlord so this list stays correct.

5. The home

Landlord rents to Tenant the home at _____, in Vermont (the "Home"). Tenant may also use any shared areas of the property that are meant for tenants, such as hallways, laundry rooms and yards, subject to the rules in this lease.

6. How long this lease lasts

Length of this lease (tick one):

☐ This lease starts on _____ and ends on _____.

☐ This lease starts on _____ and continues month to month until one side ends it as this lease describes.

If the Home is not ready for Tenant on the start date, Tenant owes no rent until it is. If it is still not ready 7 days after the start date, Tenant may cancel this lease in writing and get back everything Tenant has paid. Tenant keeps any other right the law gives in this situation.

7. When the term ends

When the fixed term ends (tick one):

☐ When the term ends, this lease continues month to month on the same terms unless either side has given the notice this lease requires.

☐ This lease ends on the end date and Tenant will move out by that day.

☐ This lease ends on the end date unless both sides sign a renewal.

If Tenant stays after this lease has ended without Landlord's agreement, Tenant owes rent for each day of the stay at this lease's daily rate, and Landlord may use the process the law allows to regain the Home.

8. Rent

Rent is $_____ a month, due in advance on the _____ day of each month. Tenant does not need a reminder to pay it.

If the due day is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, rent received on the next business day is on time.

Pay rent to _____ at _____.

9. How to pay

Tenant may pay rent by:_____.

Paying online (tick one):

☐ Rent cannot be paid online.

☐ Tenant may pay rent online with no fee.

☐ Tenant may pay rent online. Paying online is optional, and the fee of_____ applies only to a payment Tenant chooses to make that way. It is not part of the rent.

10. First month's rent

If this lease starts after the first day of a month, the first payment covers only the days from the start date to the end of that month: $_____. If no amount is written here, the full rent is due from the start.

11. Late fee

If rent is not received within _____ days after the due date, Tenant owes a late fee of _____. The fee is charged once for each late payment and is never added to another late fee. No late fee is owed on rent Tenant lawfully withholds. If no amount is written here, no late fee is charged.

12. Returned payments

If a check or other payment is returned unpaid, Tenant owes a returned-payment fee of $_____, and still owes the payment itself. If no amount is written here, no returned-payment fee is charged.

13. Partial payments

Partial payments (tick one):

☐ Landlord does not have to accept less than the full amount due. There is no charge for offering a partial payment.

☐ Landlord accepts partial payments, with no extra charge. Tenant still owes the rest by the due date.

A payment goes first to the oldest rent owed, then to other amounts owed. Accepting a partial payment does not cancel what is still owed, and does not give up any right unless Landlord agrees in writing or the law says otherwise.

14. Other fees

Any other fee is listed here, with what it is for. If nothing is written here, this lease requires no other fee.

Fee: _____ Amount: $_____ ☐ each month ☐ one time, refundable ☐ one time, not refundable
It is for: _____

Fee: _____ Amount: $_____ ☐ each month ☐ one time, refundable ☐ one time, not refundable
It is for: _____

Fee: _____ Amount: $_____ ☐ each month ☐ one time, refundable ☐ one time, not refundable
It is for: _____

15. What is due at move-in

Due before Tenant moves in. If no amount is written on a line, nothing is due for it.

First month's rent: $_____

Security deposit: $_____

Pet deposit: $_____

Key deposit: $_____

Last month's rent paid up front: $_____

Other: $_____

Total due at move-in: $_____

16. Security deposit

Tenant pays a security deposit of $_____. It remains Tenant's money, held against what Tenant may owe at the end of this lease. It is not rent, and Tenant may not use it as the last month's rent unless Landlord agrees in writing.

Landlord may keep all or part of the deposit only for unpaid rent; for damage to Landlord's property, unless the damage is normal wear and tear or the result of actions or events beyond Tenant's control; for utility or other charges that Tenant was required to pay directly to Landlord or to a utility and did not pay; and for the expense of removing articles Tenant abandoned in the Home.

Tenant gets back the rest. To speed that up, Tenant should give Landlord a forwarding address in writing when moving out. Any other deposit this lease lists is handled the same way. Where the law limits deposits, it may count toward that limit.

Landlord will return the deposit, with a written statement that itemizes any deductions, within 14 days from the date Landlord discovers that Tenant has moved out or abandoned the Home, or from the date Tenant moved out if Tenant told Landlord that date. Landlord will hand-deliver or mail the statement and any payment to Tenant's last known address. If Landlord does not do so within 14 days, Landlord gives up the right to keep any part of the deposit.

17. Where the deposit is held

Landlord will hold and account for the deposit as Vermont law requires.

18. Rent increases

During a fixed term, rent stays the same unless both sides agree in writing.

In a month-to-month tenancy, or at renewal, Landlord may raise the rent only by giving Tenant written notice that Tenant actually receives at least 60 days before the increase. The increase takes effect on the first day of the rental period that follows the 60 days.

19. Using the home

The Home is Tenant's private home. Quiet work from home that brings no customers, signs or extra traffic is fine. Any other business use needs Landlord's written agreement.

20. Guests

Guests are welcome. A guest who stays more than _____ days in a row becomes someone who lives in the Home, and needs Landlord's written agreement first, which will not be unreasonably refused. Tenant is responsible for how guests behave and for any damage they cause.

21. Subletting and transfer

Tenant may not sublet the Home or transfer this lease without Landlord's written agreement. Landlord will consider each request fairly and answer in writing within a reasonable time.

22. Short-term rentals

Tenant may not rent out the Home or any room for short stays, through a listing site or otherwise, without Landlord's written agreement.

23. Everyone is responsible together

Each person who signs as Tenant is responsible for all of what this lease requires, including the whole rent, and not only a share. Landlord may ask any one of them, or all of them, for what is owed. This does not take away any right the law gives a person to leave a lease early, or to be released from it.

24. Pets

Pets (tick one):

☐ No pets may live in or visit the Home without Landlord's written agreement.

☐ These pets may live in the Home: _____. Tenant will keep them under control, clean up after them and pay for any damage they cause beyond normal wear and tear.

If pets are allowed: the pet deposit is $_____ and pet rent is $_____ a month. If no amount is written here, none is charged. A pet deposit is handled like the security deposit. Where the law limits deposits, it may count toward that limit.

25. Assistance animals

An assistance animal for a person with a disability is not a pet. The pet rules, pet deposits and pet rent do not apply to it, though Tenant may be responsible for damage it causes, as the law provides. Landlord will consider requests as fair-housing law requires.

26. Smoking and vaping

Smoking and vaping (tick one):

☐ No one may smoke or vape tobacco or nicotine, or burn any other lighted product for inhalation, inside the Home, on its balconies or patios, or in shared indoor areas. This lease does not forbid possessing cannabis in the Home, or using it there in a way other than lighting it for inhalation.

☐ Smoking and vaping are allowed inside the Home. They are not allowed in shared indoor areas. Tenant pays for any damage beyond normal wear and tear, including burns and lasting odor. This lease does not forbid possessing cannabis in the Home, or using it there in a way other than lighting it for inhalation.

27. Parking and vehicles

Parking (tick one):

☐ No parking comes with this lease.

☐ This parking comes with the Home: _____. Vehicles parked there must be in working order and legally registered. A vehicle may be towed only as the law allows.

28. Storage

☐ This storage comes with the Home: _____. Tenant may not keep anything dangerous there.

29. Keys and locks

At move-in Tenant receives:_____. Tenant returns all keys at move-out.

Tenant will not change or add a lock without Landlord's written agreement, unless the law gives Tenant the right to, and will give Landlord a key to any new lock unless the law says otherwise.

If Tenant loses a key, or asks to be let in, the charge for that help is_____. If no amount is written here, there is no charge.

Except through the eviction process the law provides, Landlord will not lock Tenant out, remove doors or belongings, or shut off a utility to make Tenant leave or pay.

30. House rules

Tenant will follow any written rules Landlord has given Tenant. A rule must be fair, clear and apply to all tenants alike. A later rule that materially changes this lease needs Tenant's written agreement, unless the law allows it on notice.

Community rules (tick one):

☐ No homeowners association or community rules apply to the Home.

☐ Homeowners association or community rules apply to the Home. Landlord has given Tenant a copy, and Tenant will follow them.

31. Changes to the Home

Tenant needs Landlord's written agreement before painting, or making any lasting change to the Home. Small nail holes for pictures are normal wear and tear. A Tenant with a disability may ask to make a change the person needs, as fair-housing law allows.

32. Respect for neighbors

Tenant, Tenant's household and guests will not disturb neighbors' peaceful enjoyment of their homes, make the property unsafe or use the property for anything illegal. Possessing cannabis in the Home, and using it there other than by lighting it for inhalation, is not an illegal use under this lease.

33. Move-in condition record

☐ Before Tenant moves in, Landlord and Tenant will do a move-in inspection and sign the attached Move-in Condition Record, a move-in checklist of the condition of the Home and everything Landlord provides in it.

☐ Before Tenant moves in, Landlord and Tenant will do a move-in inspection and sign the inspection report, a

move-in checklist of the condition of the Home and everything Landlord provides in it. The signed report is part of this lease.

Each keeps a copy. Tenant may add anything found in the first 7 days by writing to Landlord. The record is used at move-out to tell damage from what was already there.

34. What Landlord takes care of

Landlord will keep the Home fit to live in, as the law requires: its structure, roof, doors and windows; its plumbing, electricity, heating and hot water; anything else Landlord provides in it; and any shared areas.

Tenant does not pay for repairs that are Landlord's duty, unless Tenant, someone in Tenant's household or a guest caused the problem through a deliberate or careless act, and the law allows the charge.

35. What Tenant takes care of

Tenant will keep the Home clean and safe, put out trash and recycling, use its fixtures and appliances properly, and promptly report anything that needs repair. Tenant pays to fix damage beyond normal wear and tear caused by Tenant, Tenant's household or guests.

36. How to ask for a repair

Tenant should ask for repairs in writing, by message or email, to the contact named above, and by phone in an emergency. Landlord will respond within a reasonable time, and sooner when health or safety is at stake. Nothing here takes away a right the law gives Tenant if a repair is not made.

37. Reporting a problem to the authorities

Tenant may report a nuisance, or code violations of a building, safety or health code, to the local government office that handles them, or to the police if it is a crime.

Landlord will not retaliate against Tenant for making a report in good faith.

38. Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms

The Home has working smoke alarms and, where the law requires them, carbon monoxide alarms. Tenant will test them regularly, leave them connected and tell Landlord at once if one is not working.

39. Appliances and furnishings

These come with the Home: _____. Landlord repairs them unless Tenant, Tenant's household or a guest caused the damage.

40. Pests and bed bugs

Tenant will keep the Home clean, tell Landlord promptly about any sign of pests or bed bugs, and cooperate with treatment. Landlord will deal with pests as the law requires, and Tenant pays only where Tenant's household or guests caused the problem and the law allows the charge.

41. Mold and moisture

Tenant will use fans and open windows to control moisture, wipe up water promptly and tell Landlord promptly about any leak or mold. Landlord will fix leaks and the moisture problems that are Landlord's duty.

42. Utilities and services

Tenant pays for these utilities:_____. Landlord pays for these utilities: _____.

These services come with the rent: _____.

Tenant will open any account in Tenant's own name that Tenant is responsible for, and keep it paid, so that service is not cut off.

43. Yard and snow

Yard and snow, for a house (tick one):

☐ Tenant takes care of the yard and clears snow and ice from the Home's walkways.

☐ Landlord takes care of the yard and clears snow and ice from the Home's walkways.

44. Renters insurance

Renters insurance (tick one):

☐ This lease does not require renters insurance, and Landlord recommends it. Landlord's insurance does not cover Tenant's belongings.

☐ Tenant will carry renters insurance with at least $_____ of liability coverage and show proof when asked. Landlord's insurance does not cover Tenant's belongings.

45. Belongings and responsibility for harm

Landlord does not insure Tenant's belongings. Nothing in this lease excuses Landlord, Landlord's agents or employees, or Tenant from responsibility for negligent or wrongful acts, or for anything else the law makes them responsible for.

46. Fire or other serious damage

If fire, flood or something else that Tenant did not cause makes the Home unsafe to live in, Tenant owes no rent for the time it cannot be lived in, and either side may end this lease by written notice, unless the law says otherwise. If only part cannot be used, the rent goes down fairly until it is repaired. Landlord will return the deposit as this lease describes.

47. When Landlord may enter

Landlord may enter the Home with Tenant's consent, which Tenant will not unreasonably withhold. Landlord will not use entry to harass Tenant.

Landlord may also enter between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., after at least 48 hours' notice to Tenant, to inspect the Home when necessary, to make necessary or agreed repairs, alterations or improvements, to supply agreed services, or to show the Home to buyers, mortgagees, tenants, workers or contractors.

Landlord will enter without Tenant's consent and without notice only when Landlord reasonably believes there is imminent danger to any person or to property.

48. Showing the Home

When the Home is for sale, or this lease is ending, Landlord may show it to buyers or new tenants under the entry rules above, and may put up a sign if the law allows.

49. Giving notice to move out

Tenant may end a month-to-month tenancy by giving Landlord written notice, at least one rental payment period before the move-out date stated in the notice.

To end this lease at the end of its stated term without giving a reason, Landlord will give Tenant written notice stating the end date at least 30 days before the end of the term if Tenant has lived in the Home for two years or less, and at least 60 days before the end of the term if Tenant has lived in the Home for more than two years. If rent is paid weekly, Landlord's notice is at least 7 days. To end a month-to-month tenancy, Landlord will give Tenant the notice Vermont law requires.

A notice must be in writing and say the date the tenancy ends.

50. Leaving early

☐ Tenant may end this lease early by giving_____ days' written notice and paying _____. Once Tenant has done that and moved out, Tenant owes no more rent after the date in the notice.

If Tenant moves out early with no right to, Tenant owes rent until the Home is rented to someone else or the term ends, whichever comes first. Landlord will make reasonable efforts to rent the Home again, and Tenant also owes the reasonable cost of doing so, if the law allows it.

51. Military service

A Tenant who joins the military, or who is on active duty and receives orders for a permanent change of station or a deployment of 90 days or more, may end this lease early under the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, by giving Landlord written notice and a copy of the orders. The Act also covers a servicemember's household in some cases. Landlord may not charge an early-termination fee for using this right.

52. Safety, and other rights to leave early

Whatever this lease says, a Tenant who is a victim of abuse, sexual assault or stalking, or who is a parent, foster parent, legal guardian or caretaker with at least partial physical custody of such a victim (a protected tenant), may end this lease without penalty or liability if Tenant reasonably believes it is necessary to leave the Home because of a fear of imminent harm to any protected tenant from abuse, sexual assault or stalking, or because any protected tenant was a victim of sexual assault that took place at the Home in the six months before Tenant's notice.

To do so, Tenant gives Landlord, at least 30 days before the end date, a written notice of termination and documentation supporting Tenant's belief. The documentation may come from a court, law enforcement or another government agency; from an abuse, sexual assault or stalking assistance program; from a legal, clerical, medical or other professional who gave Tenant, or Tenant's minor or dependent, counseling or other help about abuse, sexual assault or stalking; or may be a self-certification signed under penalty of perjury on a standard form adopted for that purpose by a federal or state government entity or by a nonprofit that supports protected tenants. Tenant may cancel the notice by writing to Landlord, if Landlord has not by then rented the Home to someone else, or if Tenant has not moved out by the end date and Landlord has not rented the Home to someone else.

Whatever this lease says, a protected tenant may ask Landlord to change the locks of the Home, and Landlord will change them within 48 hours after the request, if the request is based on a fear of imminent harm to a protected tenant from abuse, sexual assault or stalking, or on a sexual assault of a protected tenant at the Home in the six months before the request. If the person who committed the abuse, sexual assault or stalking

is also a tenant of the Home, the request includes a copy of a court order requiring that person to leave. Landlord will give a key to the new locks to each tenant of the Home, except a person a court has ordered to leave. If Landlord does not change the locks as requested, the protected tenant may change them without Landlord's prior permission, if the new locks and their installation equal or exceed the quality of the originals, the protected tenant tells Landlord within 24 hours after installing them, and gives Landlord a key. Unless Landlord and Tenant agree otherwise, the protected tenant pays for the new locks.

53. If either side breaks this lease

If Tenant does not pay rent or breaks another term, Landlord will give Tenant the written notice the law requires, with any chance to fix the problem that the law gives. If it is not fixed, Landlord may go to court to end the tenancy and recover what is owed. Landlord will not remove Tenant or Tenant's belongings by force or by shutting off essential services, and will use only the steps the law allows, including the court process the law provides.

If Landlord breaks this lease or does not keep the Home fit to live in, Tenant has the rights and remedies the law gives. Neither side gives up a right by waiting to use it, unless the law says otherwise.

54. If Tenant leaves without notice, or leaves belongings

Landlord may treat the Home as abandoned, and deal with anything left behind, only as the law allows.

55. Moving out

When moving out, Tenant will remove all belongings, leave the Home clean and in the condition it was in at move-in apart from normal wear and tear, return all keys and give Landlord a forwarding address in writing. Tenant may ask to be present when Landlord inspects the Home, and Landlord will agree if it can reasonably be arranged, or as the law requires.

56. If the Home is sold

If the Home is sold, this lease stays in force. Landlord will tell Tenant in writing who the new owner is and where to pay rent, and will transfer the deposit as the law requires.

57. Attorney fees

☐ If the court gives Landlord judgment for possession of the Home, the court may also award Landlord reasonable attorney fees, because this lease provides for them. If Tenant brings a claim about an illegal eviction, the court may award Landlord reasonable attorney fees only if, after a motion and a hearing, it finds that the claim was not brought in good faith and was frivolous or intended for harassment only. In any other court case over this lease, the side that wins may recover reasonable attorney fees and court costs, if the court awards them. This does not limit attorney fees Tenant may recover under Vermont law.

58. How notices are given

A notice under this lease must be in writing and delivered by hand, or sent by mail, to Tenant at the Home and to Landlord at the address for notices above. Email or text counts only if both sides have agreed to it in writing and the law allows it. Legal papers are served as the law requires.

59. The whole agreement

This lease and its attachments are the whole agreement. Changes must be in writing and signed by both sides. If any part conflicts with the law, the law controls, and the rest of this lease still applies. Nothing in this lease

takes away a right that the law says cannot be given up.

60. Which law applies

Vermont law and any local law that applies to the Home govern this lease.

61. Fair housing

Landlord does not discriminate on any basis the law forbids, including race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status or national origin. A Tenant with a disability may ask for a reasonable change in rules, services or the Home that the person needs, as fair-housing law provides, by writing to the contact for notices.

62. Signing electronically

Both sides may sign this lease electronically, and an electronic signature counts the same as one on paper. Anyone who would rather sign on paper may ask, and Landlord will arrange it.

63. Copies

Each Tenant receives a signed copy of this lease and its attachments, free of charge, when it is signed. Landlord will give another copy on request, within a reasonable time.

64. Language

If this lease was negotiated mainly in a language other than English, Tenant should ask for a translation, which the law requires in some places, and should ask for help with anything in this lease Tenant does not understand.

65. Lead-Based Paint Disclosure (homes built before 1978)

This section applies if the home was built before 1978, unless the home is exempt under federal law. ☐ The home was built in 1978 or later, so this section does not apply.

Lead Warning Statement: Housing built before 1978 may contain lead-based paint. Lead from paint, paint chips, and dust can pose health hazards if not managed properly. Lead exposure is especially harmful to young children and pregnant women. Before renting pre-1978 housing, lessors must disclose the presence of known lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards in the dwelling. Lessees must also receive a federally approved pamphlet on lead poisoning prevention.

Landlord's disclosure (tick one): ☐ Landlord knows of lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards in the housing, as follows: _____. ☐ Landlord has no knowledge of lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards in the housing.

Records and reports (tick one): ☐ Landlord has provided Tenant with all available records and reports pertaining to lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards in the housing: _____. ☐ Landlord has no reports or records pertaining to lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards in the housing.

Tenant's acknowledgment: Tenant has received copies of all information listed above and the pamphlet Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home.

Agent's acknowledgment, if an agent acts for Landlord: The agent has informed Landlord of Landlord's obligations under 42 U.S.C. 4852d and is aware of the agent's duty to ensure compliance with 40 CFR Part 745, Subpart F.

Certification: By signing this Lease, each person signing certifies that, to the best of their knowledge, the

information they have provided above is true and accurate. The dates of signature are those recorded with each signature on this Lease.

66. Signatures

Landlord: _____ Date: _____

Tenant: _____ Date: _____

Tenant: _____ Date: _____

By signing, each party agrees to this lease and its attachments.

Move-in Condition Record

Landlord and Tenant fill this in together before Tenant moves in. Write what is there and what condition it is in, including anything Landlord provides. Note anything already damaged or worn, and take dated photos if you can. Each side keeps a signed copy. This record is part of the lease.

Entry and hallways: _____

Living room: _____

Kitchen: counters, cabinets, sink: _____

Kitchen: stove, oven, refrigerator: _____

Dining area: _____

Bedroom 1: _____

Bedroom 2: _____

Bedroom 3: _____

Bathroom 1: _____

Bathroom 2: _____

Windows, screens, blinds: _____

Floors and carpet: _____

Walls, ceilings, paint: _____

Heating and cooling: _____

Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms: _____

Laundry: _____

Garage, parking, storage: _____

Yard, patio, balcony: _____

Keys and remotes given: _____

Landlord: _____ Date: _____

Tenant: _____ Date: _____

Pet Addendum

This addendum is part of the lease. It applies to these pets only:

_____.

Tenant will keep each pet licensed and vaccinated as the law requires, keep it under control, clean up after it,

and make sure it does not disturb neighbors or harm anyone. Tenant pays for any damage a pet causes beyond normal wear and tear.

A new or replacement pet needs Landlord's written agreement. Landlord may ask Tenant to remove a pet that seriously threatens health or safety, or that keeps disturbing neighbors after written warning, as the law allows.

An assistance animal for a person with a disability is not a pet, and this addendum does not apply to it.

Landlord: _____ Date: _____

Tenant: _____ Date: _____

Parking Rules

This addendum is part of the lease. Tenant may park in: _____.

Each vehicle must be in working order and legally registered. Tenant will not store or repair vehicles in a way that leaks fluids, blocks others or breaks local rules. A vehicle may be towed only as the law allows, and with any notice the law requires.

Landlord: _____ Date: _____

Tenant: _____ Date: _____

Flood Hazard Area Notice

Flood hazard area (tick one):

☐ No part of the Home is located in a Federal Emergency Management Agency mapped special flood hazard area.

☐ Part of the Home is located in a Federal Emergency Management Agency mapped special flood hazard area.

Landlord gives Tenant this notice as a separate written document, at or before the time Tenant signs this lease.