

Sununu: Yes, You Have To Pay Your Rent And Mortgage

Gov. Chris Sununu issued Emergency Order 24 Friday night clarifying and modifying Order 4 concerning temporary prohibition of evictions and foreclosures.

Sununu said the previous order was not an invitation for renters and homeowners with mortgages to skip out on paying obligations to landlords and banks — it was to keep them from being targeted for being late with payments or not having limited financial means. The governor consulted with the attorney general on the wording of the order.

"We all have an obligation to be good neighbors and treat each other fairly, and this extends to both landlords and tenants," Sununu said. "I strongly encourage all tenants who have difficulty paying their rent to work with their landlord to develop a payment plan and pay what they can. Many tenants should be able to utilize the expanded unemployment benefits provided by the state and federal government to pay all or part of their rent. At the same time, I strongly encourage all landlords to comply with the protections provided by the state and seek to form a workable arrangement with their tenants."

Emergency Order 24 allows landlords to initiate eviction proceedings against tenants who cause damage to property or who present a threat to the health and safety of their neighbors, the governor said.