

I am a Childcare provider in the state of Oregon.

I am in the Clackamas area and I have been rendered homeless due to not being able to rent a home because I have a child care.

I started providing Childcare in the early 1990's.

When I started caring for children in my home I never thought this is where I'd be today.

I had a small taste of the rental home vs childcare about 10 years ago when I got divorced. It took about a month to find a landlord that would accept childcare in the home. I kept being cited the "No business' in home rentals" policy. I thought that was a struggle back then. (I had no idea.) Thinking ahead and being shaken by the struggle I had recently had, I didn't want to be in that position again. I decided to buy a forever home. I filed my taxes. I took no deductions so my income was loan worthy. I owed the maximum amount in taxes so I could get pre-approved. It cost a lot of money I didn't have, but it was the only way to get bank approval. It worked. I got pre-approved, took my home buyers courses and tried to move forward. Sadly, it was the worst timing. It was during the housing crash and the inventory was at best, minimal.

After almost a year of looking and not finding anything suitable I was approached by someone who had a house and needed a tenant. He was fine with me doing childcare in home. Little did I know when I moved in the home in June 2012, it was uninhabitable. He said he didn't realize it was in such bad condition. It didn't matter. I had nowhere else to go. I was left responsible to fix the home to make it habitable. Cue approximately \$20,000+ debt for me. It didn't matter he was taking advantage. He knew like I knew, I had nowhere else I could go. I paid for renovations and repairs with bartering childcare (18 months free full-time childcare for labor on 2 decks, many evenings and weekends for plumbing work) and on credit cards. This went on for 8 years. On September 11th 2020, the owner came over and told me he had sold the house and I had 30 days to move. That simple. It was over. After picking myself up, I started hunting for a new home. That was the 3rd week of September last year. After being rejected on every place I called by the end of September, I started putting my things into storage. I informed my clients I didn't know what was going to happen so they were free to please look for alternate care. I am blessed to have families bring me their babies and the stay until school age or after, if their school is near. 1 of my families and I have been together 11years. This is how we build community.

2 days before I had to be out with nowhere to go, a friend called and said I was welcome to rent a room at her house so I would not be homeless. She welcomed me and my now limited childcare. We were sure I would find a home. That was October

2020. Since then I have been turned down on every home I call. I can't get past daycare before they are saying "No" in the most colorful ways. I have been told NO because the insurance won't allow it. No because there's a "No business from home" policy. (even though I point out that most people are working from home right now).... Or "So you're saying you and the kids are home all day?" "Oh, so, you're like a glorified babysitter?"

One man actually yelled profanities at me. I am at the end of my rope with nowhere else to go. My friend has bought another home and promised this home to her son and his young family. This was all arranged long before I came into the picture. If I can't find a home to rent with my business by the end of February, after 27 years, I will have to close my doors for good. Even then I am still in a precarious position. I can't find a home because I have a childcare, and I can't find a home because if I'm not doing childcare (my career) I don't have 90 past work history. This is all because I am told No childcare in homes for rent. I do believe it's what we call a hot mess. Not only is my personal home security and employment at risk, and my small business shutdown, but my families are directly affected. Childcare is a very personal choice for families and finding the right fit for some are not as easy as people might think. Again, because I can't find a home, more than just me is being displaced.

During a World Pandemic...

I don't know of anything short of a miracle that will save my business at this point because of the denial of a home, but we should be doing anything that can be done today to make it positive for tomorrow.

The sum of my life in a sentence... "I have Home and Job insecurity because I chose to care for children".....

Thank you for your time