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Homeowners Must Follow the Law Regarding Squatter Eviction Warns Law Society

The Law Society is urging landlords and homeowners to follow the correct legal procedures if they wish to evict squatters from their property or run the risk of prosecution themselves.

The law surrounding the rights of squatters and property owners can seem complex, therefore, it is very important to be aware what you can and cannot do within the confines of the law.

A significant number of people in the UK live in otherwise empty buildings and many argue this an example of sustainable living and a solution to the problems of homelessness and vacant properties. A squatter is not committing a criminal offence by being in another person's property without their permission. However they are subject to criminal charges if they commit offences such as damage or theft to or in that property.

Violence

If an owner attempts to use force in order to remove the squatters, they could be accused of a criminal act under the Protection from Eviction Act 1977. People can be tempted to take the law into their own hands, but violence on either side can result in prosecution.

However, by seeking the services of a solicitor and following the correct legal procedures, in many cases the situation can be resolved easily and peacefully for both sides. A solicitor can advise you on what steps to take and what documents you will need in order to proceed with an eviction or to obtain the necessary court orders.

Law Society President Robert Heslett says:

“The law surrounding this issue is undeniably complex and this is why people can often feel confused as to what are the legal rights of all concerned. It is essential to consult the services of a qualified legal professional if you are a landlord or property owner who seeks an eviction.

In these cases, time is of the essence and a solicitor can help the procedure move as quickly and painlessly as possible.”

“Equally, if someone feels their eviction is unfair or unlawful, they should seek immediate advice in order to be fully aware of their rights. The law exists to protect all parties and it is extremely important these issues are dealt with in a peaceful and legal manner.”

- ENDS -

For further information regarding this press release please contact Monica Myrie on: 020 8367 3999 or email: monicamyrie@vanderpumps.co.uk. This press release can be downloaded from www.vanderpumpandsykes.co.uk.

For matters relating to the removal of squatters, contact Jenny Howe on: 020 8370 2890.

About Vanderpump & Sykes: Established since 1899, Vanderpump & Sykes is a well respected North London partnership offering a wide range of legal services to business and private clients.

Vanderpump & Sykes serve clients nationwide whilst retaining strong links with the local community. The friendly and dynamic team are specialists in company and commercial work as well as in the traditional areas of litigation, conveyancing, family, wills and probate.