



## Explaining Negative Information

When you know that the landlord screening will produce some negative information, you can attach to the application a note that will briefly and factually explain what happened, from your perspective.

If you were at fault, explain what you have done to correct or change things. For example, you may have lived with someone who had loud parties. You can explain that this person will neither be living with nor visiting you. If you got behind on paying your rent, explain what you will do differently this time, such as having your rent paid directly from your bank.

This formula can help you write out your explanation:

When \_\_\_\_\_ happened,

I was \_\_\_\_\_

Because \_\_\_\_\_

I have \_\_\_\_\_

I would like  
(or hope) \_\_\_\_\_

**Sample message:**

**When** I was arrested for using drugs,

**I was** 18 years old and had moved into an apartment where a drug dealer lived.

**I have** completed rehab and have been drug-free for two years.

**I hope** you will not let this incident keep you from renting to me.

