

"CHILD TRAP" OF A YOUTUBER

The affected family claims to feel «helpless and deceived»

They criticize the lack of legal protection and claim that the administrative process has not provided them with any support

EL PERIÒDIC

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On October 11th, a new case related to the well-known "child trap", a scheme that has become popular among owners who recover the flat claiming the need to allocate it to a close relative to, shortly afterwards, rent it out again at a higher price. On this occasion, according to the account of the affected family - which paid a monthly rent of 750 euros -, the owner

The family paid a monthly rent of 750 euros, which was increased in a year to 1,900 euros

of the property, a well-known YouTuber, requested the recovery of the flat to allocate it to a close relative. Their surprise came a year later, when they discovered that the same flat had been re-offered on the market, but this time at a significantly higher price: 1,900 euros per month.

More than fifteen days later, the family, which has preferred to remain anonymous, told to EL PERIÒDIC that they felt «helpless and bewildered» when they received the notice of contract termination, since, at the time of the change of



The well-known YouTuber initially assured them that they could stay in the house without any inconvenience.

owner, he had assured them that they could stay in the house without any inconveni-

ce. «When they told us to keep calm, we believed it», they say, «but then we saw that it was

nothing more than a strategy».

Those affected explain that, from the beginning, they sus-

pected that this justification could be a strategy to increase the rent price in the future. According to the family, «it did not seem credible that the owner, with several properties in luxury areas, would reside in a flat in a humbler parish». This perception was confirmed shortly after their departure, when they discovered, through friends, that the house had been advertised on a rental portal with a significantly higher price. «We were in a state of shock when we saw it posted on the internet,» they declare, regretting that «we had already sensed it, but seeing it was a very strong blow.»

In an attempt to protect themselves legally, the family notified the case to the Ministry of Housing, headed by Minister Conxita Marsol, as required by the regulations, but, as they explain, the administrative process has not provided

them with any support so far. «The dossier is still ongoing», they regret, referring to the lack of response from the institutions after months of having submitted the complaint. «We feel completely unprotected», they add.

In addition to the emotional consequences and stress caused by the situation, the family has highlighted the serious financial repercussions of having to leave their home. They are currently forced to pay rent that doubles the previous cost

and have had to apply for a loan to cover expenses related to the move. This, added to the costs of their daughters' studies abroad, has shot up their family expenses. «This has affected us in everything», they explain, «we had to find money from under every rock to be able to pay for the move and the new flat».

The family considers that the current legal system «facilitates these abuses» and denounces the lack of control and monitoring by the authorities in this type of case. «There are no

consequences for the owner», they point out, assuring that this phenomenon is spreading because many people fear reprisals if they decide to file a complaint. However, given the complexity and costs of a legal process, they have not considered taking legal action, as they consider that the law offers more protection to the owner. «It's a very unequal fight», they comment with resignation, pointing out that «the current legislation protects the interests of owners above the rights of tenants».

Lastly, the family criticizes the lack of measures by the Government to strengthen rental legislation in Andorra and believe that situations like theirs could be avoided if the regulations were reviewed to ensure more effective protection for tenants. «We only ask that they protect us from these abuses», they conclude. ●



AFFECTED FAMILY

VICTIMS OF THE "CHILD TRAP"

«We didn't find it credible that the owner, with several properties in luxury areas, would live in a flat in a humbler parish»

«The legal system facilitates these abuses [...] Current legislation protects the interests of landlords above the rights of tenants»

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