

Tenants' Rights in Massachusetts
MCLE Basic Benefits Training Series
February 23, 2022

Resources & Links

Booklets

Representing Yourself in an Eviction

Booklet 1: Protect Yourself in an Eviction

What steps to take before going to court and what to bring to court

Booklet 2: Housing Code Checklist (stand-by for update in April)

What conditions violate the State Sanitary Code

Booklet 3: The Answer

How to defend yourself and explain why you should not be evicted

Booklet 3A: Late Answer & Discovery

How to ask the court to accept your Answer and Discovery forms late

Booklet 4: Discovery

How to get information to prepare for your case

Booklet 4A: Discovery for tenants in foreclosed properties

How to get information to prepare for your case

All booklets available at: <https://www.masslegalhelp.org/housing-apartments-shelter/eviction/booklets-representing-yourself-eviction>

Booklets

Representing Yourself in an Eviction

Booklet 5: Transfer

How to transfer a case to Housing Court

Booklet 6: Removing a Default

How to ask the the court for a new court date if you missed your court date

Booklet 7: Appeals

Where to file an appeal if you lost your case

Booklet 8: Stay

How to get time to stay in your home if you lost your case

Booklet 9: Affidavit of Indigency

How to ask the court to pay for court costs

Booklet 10: Negotiating a Settlement of Your Case

How to think through the terms you want in an agreement

All booklets available at: <https://www.masslegalhelp.org/housing-apartments-shelter/eviction/booklets-representing-yourself-eviction>

Online Forms & Tools

MADE Answer, Discovery, and other forms

www.gbls.org/MADE

MADE Up to Code

madeuptocode.org

Temporary Restraining Order

apps.suffoklitlab.org/run/housing_tro

Court forms & self-help materials for urgent legal needs

courtformsonline.org

Resources & Information

Massachusetts Legal Resource Finder

masslrf.org/en/home

Know Your Rights Information

MassLegalHelp.org

Common Questions about Evictions

masslegalhelp.org/housing/common-questions

**Tenancy Preservation Program, Lawyer for the Day,
& Other Housing Court Resources**

www.mass.gov/guides/housing-court-resources

Video instructions for e-filing:

www.masslegalhelp.org/housing/evictions-efilema

Volunteers Lawyers' Project Appeals Clinic

vlpnet.org/civil-appeals-clinic/

Court Information

Court Locator by Area

www.mass.gov/courthouse-locator

District Court Locator

www.mass.gov/orgs/district-court/locations

Housing Court Locator

www.mass.gov/orgs/housing-court/locations

Housing Court Information

www.mass.gov/orgs/housing-court

Remote Court Hearings

www.mass.gov/info-details/remotevirtual-court-services

Housing Court Resources

www.mass.gov/guides/housing-court-resources

Language Access Complaint form

macourtsystem.formstack.com/forms/language_access_complaint

Tools and Forms for Getting Repairs Made

- **MADE Up to Code** madeuptocode.org/
- **Housing Code Checklist:** masslegalhelp.org/housing-apartments-shelter/eviction/booklets-representing-yourself-eviction
- **Sample Letter to Landlord to Request Repairs**
masslegalhelp.org/sites/default/files/2024-01/lt1-form-9-repair-letter.pdf
- **Sample Consumer Protection Demand Letter**
masslegalhelp.org/sites/default/files/2024-01/lt1-form-9-repair-letter.pdf
- **Inspection Request Letter**
masslegalhelp.org/sites/default/files/2024-01/lt1-form-11-inspection-req.pdf
- **Tenant Petition to Enforce Sanitary Code**
masslegalhelp.org/sites/default/files/2024-01/lt1-form-14-tenant-petition.pdf
- **Temporary Restraining Order for emergency repairs**
masslegalhelp.org/sites/default/files/2024-01/lt1-form-15-tro.pdf
- **Temporary Restraining Order online from smartphone or computer**
apps.suffolklitlab.org/run/housing_tro/#/1

Fair Housing Resources

Legal Help	Contact info
Mass. Fair Housing Center	https://www.massfairhousing.org/ (413) 539-9796
Community Legal Aid	https://communitylegal.org/ 855-252-5342
Suffolk University	https://www.suffolk.edu/law/academics-clinics/clinics-experiential-opportunities/housing-discrimination-testing-program 617-884-7568 or 617-305-1649
SouthCoast Fair Housing	http://southcoastfairhousing.org/ (774) 473-9994
FHAM Statewide Hotline	(508)444-9332
Or file a complaint:	
Mass. Comm'n Against Discrimination	https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-commission-against-discrimination (617) 994-6000
U.S. Dep't of Hous. & Urb. Development	https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/online-complaint 1-800-669-9777

Rental Assistance Resources

Regional Rental Assistance agencies

Call 800-224-5124 or find your agency here:

hedfuel.azurewebsites.net/raa.aspx

How to apply for emergency rental assistance

mass.gov/how-to/how-to-apply-for-emergency-housing-payment-assistance

Subsidized Housing Emergency Rental Assistance (SHERA)

sherafunding.mass.gov/en-US/Pages/View/131/program-information

HomeOwner Assistance Fund

mass.gov/how-to/homeowner-assistance-fund-haf

Forms Related to Rent & Other Payments

Form 1: Moving In Checklist

masslegalhelp.org/housing/lt1-form-1-moving-in-checklist.pdf

Form 2: Sample Rent Receipt

masslegalhelp.org/housing/lt1-form-2-sample-rent-receipt.pdf

Form 3: Statement of Condition

masslegalhelp.org/housing/lt1-form-3-statement-of-condition.pdf

Form 4: Security Deposit Last Months Rent Receipt

masslegalhelp.org/housing/lt1-form-4-security-dep-last-months-rent-receipt.pdf

Letter to Demand the Return of Security Deposit:

CourtFormsOnlineMassAccess interactive interview

apps.suffolklitlab.org/run/security_deposit_demand_letter/#/1