Your Name

Address, City, ST ZIP Code | Telephone | Email

Date

Landlord’s Name

Address
City, ST ZIP Code

RE: Lock Change Request

Dear Landlord:

Pursuant to G.L. c. 186 § 26, this letter is requesting you please change the locks to my rental unit.

I believe I am in danger from an incident of domestic violence, rape, sexual assault or stalking, as outlined by the statute. (Or a member of my household reasonably believes that they are in danger from an incident of domestic violence, rape, sexual assault or stalking.)

You must change the locks within 2 business days of this request, or give me permission to change them. G.L. c. 186 §26(d). If I get no response within the two days, the law lets me change the locks myself. G.L. c. 186 §26(e).

*{Cross out the below if it does not apply to you}*

The person I am afraid of is a member of my household. You must change the locks and not give that person (named)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_a key because I am giving you one of the following:

* Copy of a valid protection or harassment prevention order; *or*
* A record from a federal, state or local court or law enforcement (e.g., police) that indicates the person is a danger to me or someone in my household.

**You cannot share my personal, private information with anyone outside of a court order or if required by the government.**

Thank you for taking this sensitive matter seriously. I look forward to your prompt response and help.

Sincerely,

Your Name

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**Do not provide this second sheet to your landlord**

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**Only** give your landlord **proof** of domestic violence, rape, stalking or sexual assault if:

* You want to exclude a member of your household or
* The landlord asks for proof.

If he asks for proof, only give **one** of the following.

**It is your choice what to give:**

* Copy of a valid protection or harassment prevention order;
* Copy of a record of an incident of domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, or stalking from a federal, state or local court or law enforcement (e.g., police) including the perpetrator’s name, if known;
* A letter from a qualified person. A qualified person can be a domestic violence or sexual assault counselor, licensed social worker or mental health professional, or a law enforcement professional. Adult victims must provide a sworn statement that the facts included in the letter are true.

NOTE: If **you** change the locks*,* they must be installed in a *professional manner* and the new lock must be *like or better than* the old lock.

**Who pays for the new locks?**

The landlord can charge you a reasonable fee for changing the lock. The fee can cover the cost of the new lock and the cost to install it*.* Victim Compensation (617) 727-2200ext. 2160 may be able to give you some of the money for the cost of the new lock.