

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

Resources & Links

Booklets

Representing Yourself in an Eviction

All booklets available at: www.MassLegalHelp.org/legal-tactics

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

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

Booklets

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All booklets available at: [MassLegalHelp.org/legal-tactics](https://www.masslegalhelp.org/legal-tactics)

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

Online Forms & Tools

MADE Answer, Discovery, and other forms

www.gbls.org/MADE

MADE Up to Code

madeuptocode.org

Temporary Restraining Order

apps.suffolklitlab.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

Hot Spot Information

List and map of outdoor hotspots at libraries

<https://libraries.state.ma.us/wifi>

Municipalities with hotspots through MassTech

<https://broadband.masstech.org/wifi>

Information about Xfinity hotspots

<https://www.xfinity.com/learn/internet-service/wifi>

Information about Spectrum hotspots

<https://www.spectrum.com/internet/wifi-access-points?opredirect=wifi-hotspots?opredirect=wifi-access-points?opredirect=wifi-hotspots&opredirect=wifi-hotspots>

Housing Code Checklist

English	www.masslegalhelp.org/housing/lt1-booklet-2-housing-code-checklist-2021.pdf
Spanish	www.masslegalhelp.org/housing/lt1-booklet-2-housing-code-checklist-spanish.pdf
Vietnamese	www.masslegalhelp.org/housing/lt1-booklet-2-housing-code-checklist-vietnamese.pdf
Portuguese	www.masslegalhelp.org/housing/lt1-booklet-2-housing-code-checklist-portuguese.pdf
Haitian-Creole	www.masslegalhelp.org/housing/lt1-booklet-2-housing-code-checklist-haitian-creole.pdf
Chinese	www.masslegalhelp.org/housing/lt1-booklet-2-housing-code-checklist-simplified-chinese.pdf
Khmer	www.masslegalhelp.org/housing/lt1-booklet-2-housing-code-checklist-khmer.pdf

Tools and Forms for Getting Repairs Made

MADE Up to Code madeuptocode.org/

Sample Letter to Landlord to Request Repairs

www.masslegalhelp.org/housing/lt1-form-9-repair-letter.pdf

Sample Consumer Protection Demand Letter

www.masslegalhelp.org/housing/lt1-form-10-repair-demand.pdf

Inspection Request Letter

www.masslegalhelp.org/housing/lt1-form-11-inspection-req.pdf

Tenant Petition to Enforce Sanitary Code

www.masslegalhelp.org/housing/lt1-form-14-tenant-petition.pdf

Temporary Restraining Order for emergency repairs

www.masslegalhelp.org/housing/lt1-form-15-tro.pdf

Temporary Restraining Order online from smart phone/computer

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

Fair Housing Resources

Mass. Fair Housing Center

413-539-9796

www.massfairhousing.org/

Community Legal Aid

855-252-5342

communitylegal.org/

Suffolk University Law School

617-884-7568 or 617-305-1649

suffolk.edu/law/academics-clinics/clinics-experiential-opportunities/housing-discrimination-testing-program

SouthCoast Fair Housing

774-473-9994

southcoastfairhousing.org/

Where to File a Fair Housing Complaint

Mass. Commission Against Discrimination

617-994-6000

mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-commission-against-discrimination

U.S. Dept of Housing and Urban Development

1-800-669-9777

hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/online-complaint

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/legal-tactics

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