

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](http://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 (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

# Booklets

## Representing Yourself in an Eviction

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](http://www.gbls.org/MADE)

MADE Up to Code

[madeuptocode.org](http://madeuptocode.org)

Temporary Restraining Order

[apps.suffoklitlab.org/run/housing\\_tro](http://apps.suffoklitlab.org/run/housing_tro)

Court forms & self-help materials for urgent legal needs

[courtformsonline.org](http://courtformsonline.org)

# Resources & Information

Massachusetts Legal Resource Finder

[masslrf.org/en/home](http://masslrf.org/en/home)

Know Your Rights Information

[MassLegalHelp.org](http://MassLegalHelp.org)

Common Questions about Evictions

[masslegalhelp.org/housing/common-questions](http://masslegalhelp.org/housing/common-questions)

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

[www.mass.gov/guides/housing-court-resources](http://www.mass.gov/guides/housing-court-resources)

Video instructions for e-filing:

[www.masslegalhelp.org/housing/evictions-efilema](http://www.masslegalhelp.org/housing/evictions-efilema)

Volunteers Lawyers' Project Appeals Clinic

[vlpnet.org/civil-appeals-clinic/](http://vlpnet.org/civil-appeals-clinic/)

# Court Information

Court Locator by Area

[www.mass.gov/courthouse-locator](http://www.mass.gov/courthouse-locator)

District Court Locator

[www.mass.gov/orgs/district-court/locations](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/district-court/locations)

Housing Court Locator

[www.mass.gov/orgs/housing-court/locations](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/housing-court/locations)

Housing Court Information

[www.mass.gov/orgs/housing-court](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/housing-court)

Remote Court Hearings

[www.mass.gov/info-details/remotevirtual-court-services](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/remotevirtual-court-services)

Housing Court Resources

[www.mass.gov/guides/housing-court-resources](http://www.mass.gov/guides/housing-court-resources)

Language Access Complaint form

[macourtsystem.formstack.com/forms/language\\_access\\_complaint](http://macourtsystem.formstack.com/forms/language_access_complaint)

# Tools and Forms for Getting Repairs Made

MADE Up to Code [madeuptocode.org/](http://madeuptocode.org/)

Sample Letter to Landlord to Request Repairs

[www.masslegalhelp.org/housing/lt1-form-9-repair-letter.pdf](http://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](http://www.masslegalhelp.org/housing/lt1-form-10-repair-demand.pdf)

Inspection Request Letter

[www.masslegalhelp.org/housing/lt1-form-11-inspection-req.pdf](http://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](http://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](http://www.masslegalhelp.org/housing/lt1-form-15-tro.pdf)

Temporary Restraining Order online from smart phone/computer

[apps.suffolklitlab.org/run/housing\\_tro/#/1](http://apps.suffolklitlab.org/run/housing_tro/#/1)

# Fair Housing Resources

Mass. Fair Housing Center

413-539-9796

[www.massfairhousing.org/](http://www.massfairhousing.org/)

Community Legal Aid

855-252-5342

[communitylegal.org/](http://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](http://suffolk.edu/law/academics-clinics/clinics-experiential-opportunities/housing-discrimination-testing-program)

SouthCoast Fair Housing

774-473-9994

[southcoastfairhousing.org/](http://southcoastfairhousing.org/)



# Where to File a Fair Housing Complaint

Mass. Commission Against Discrimination  
617-994-6000

[mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-commission-against-discrimination](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://hedfuel.azurewebsites.net/raa.aspx)

How to apply for emergency rental assistance  
[mass.gov/how-to/how-to-apply-for-emergency-housing-payment-assistance](https://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](https://sherafunding.mass.gov/en-US/Pages/View/131/program-information)

HomeOwner Assistance Fund  
[mass.gov/how-to/homeowner-assistance-fund-haf](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://apps.suffolklitlab.org/run/security_deposit_demand_letter/#/1)