

TENANT RIGHTS

THE LAW PROTECTS YOU FROM HARASSMENT FROM YOUR LANDLORD!

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO:

Quiet Enjoyment

In Massachusetts, your Landlord cannot interfere with your use and enjoyment of your apartment or utilities.

Warranty of Habitability

Your Landlord is obligated to keep your living quarters in decent, livable conditions, with access to utilities such as water, heat, insect/pest removal, and keeping your area clear of snow/ice.

Protection from Discrimination

In Massachusetts, it is unlawful for a housing provider to discriminate on the basis of these protected categories:

- Race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability, source of income, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, veteran or active military status, genetic information.

Protection Against Retaliation

Your Landlord may not terminate your tenancy in response to you exercising your legal rights.

- Your legal rights include:
- Filing report/contacting the Board of Health/Sanitation Office
- Joining a Tenants' Organization
- Getting legal help



TENANT RIGHTS AGAINST LANDLORD HARASSMENT

Potential examples of harassment:

- Taking away any services provided for in your lease
- Shutting off your utilities (i.e., heat, gas, electric, water)
- Entering your apartment without notifying you
- Changing the locks while you are away and without prior notice to you
- Offering you money to move and threatening eviction if you say no
- Performing unnecessary inspections, too often, or at inconvenient times for you
- Lying to you, or threatening and intimidating you
- Coercing you into leaving the apartment without a court order

WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOUR LANDLORD IS HARASSING YOU?

- Give your Landlord a copy of this flyer and instruct the Landlord to stop
- Document harassment by the Landlord + Get another person to witness the harassment
- Keep written records and take photographs when possible
- Contact Housing Aid Programs regarding your rights and the harassment you are experiencing
- Contact Legal Assistance Programs regarding your rights and the harassment you are experiencing

Potential Legal Remedies:

- Contact the Waltham Police at (781) 314-3600
- Filing a Complaint + Restraining Order
- Getting Injunctive Order Relief

Contact Suzi if you're being harassed by your landlord
781-570-4394 or suzi@watchcdc.org

