

ABOUT US

Community Legal Aid

is a non-profit organization that provides free civil legal services to low-income and elderly residents of Central and Western Massachusetts.

Springfield & Worcester Fair Housing Project

Community Legal Aid's Springfield & Worcester Fair Housing Project assists renters who have been treated unfairly because of their race, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, color, national origin, disability, and familial status in Hampden and Worcester Counties. We can provide legal advice, advocacy, and representation.

The Fair Housing Projects also conducts educational workshops on fair housing laws for tenant groups, social service providers, landlords, and other community members and trains civil rights investigators to “test” whether housing providers are unlawfully discriminating against tenants and applicants for housing.



CONTACT US

Springfield

One Monarch Place, Suite 400
Springfield, MA 01144

Worcester

370 Main Street, Suite 200
Worcester, MA 01608

Call us:

855-252-5342

Find us:    

WWW.COMMUNITYLEGAL.ORG



The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported by funding under a grant with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The substance and finding of the work are dedicated to the public. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federal Government.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

HOUSING JUSTICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



Springfield & Worcester Fair Housing Project

TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION

People with disabilities have legal rights: they have the right to access fair and equal housing opportunities.

Landlords should not:



Refuse to rent an apartment because of a tenant's disability



Charge additional fees or deposits because of a tenant's disability.



Restrict the use of the amenities that are available to other tenants (e.g., a pool, gym, or clubhouse)



Ask whether a prospective tenant is able to live independently



Refuse to make reasonable accommodations or modifications



ACCOMMODATIONS

The law says that landlords must make reasonable accommodations or reasonable modifications.

A reasonable accommodation is a change to a rule, policy or practice that is necessary for a person with a disability to use and enjoy housing.

For example: Reserved parking near a unit; allowing a tenant to have a live-in aide; allowing an assistance animal despite a “no pet” policy.

A reasonable modification is a physical change to a home or apartment that is necessary for a person with a disability to fully use and enjoy housing.

For example: Widening doorways; installing grab bars; installing a ramp.

How to make a request:

Ask your landlord verbally or in writing.

You may need to provide verification of your disability-related need (for example, a letter from a doctor, social worker, therapist, etc).

REPORT DISCRIMINATION

If you or someone you know has experienced housing discrimination, contact us:

Springfield

One Monarch Place, Suite 400
Springfield, MA 01144

Worcester

370 Main Street, Suite 200
Worcester, MA 01608

Main Line:

855-252-5342

Online:

[WWW.COMMUNITYLEGAL.ORG/
REPORT-HOUSING-DISCRIMINATION](http://WWW.COMMUNITYLEGAL.ORG/REPORT-HOUSING-DISCRIMINATION)



Scan this QR code with the camera on your smartphone to be taken to the online intake application.

