

## ABOUT US

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### 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 (including gender identity and experiences with domestic violence), 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.

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## Contact Us

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### 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](http://WWW.COMMUNITYLEGAL.ORG)

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## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS:

# SEXUAL VIOLENCE & FAIR HOUSING



Springfield & Worcester Fair Housing Project

# You have the right to be safe in your home.

**Survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and harassment, and other forms of gender-based violence all too often face instability in their housing.**

This can take the form of:

- Eviction
- Termination of public or subsidized housing
- Denial of public or subsidized housing or a housing voucher

When that eviction or denial is because of violence that person experienced, it could be discrimination.

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

**Sexual Harassment is considered sex discrimination under the Fair Housing Act.**

Sexual harassment includes any unwelcomed sexual advances, sexual comments, or any request or demand for sexual favors by a landlord or maintenance worker.



The Fair Housing Act protects people regardless of gender.



You are also protected from retaliation if you report any sexual harassment (this may include changed locks, increased rent, withholding maintenance).

**Under Massachusetts state law, you have the right to:**



To end your lease early or request a transfer.



To have your locks changed.



To report discrimination.

The fact that you exercised these rights with a current or past landlord cannot be held against you by a future landlord.



**TALK TO A LAWYER ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS. IT'S FREE!**

## Reporting Sexual Violence

- File a complaint with the US Department of Housing & Urban Development
- Contact the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination
- Contact us at Community Legal Aid

## Other Resources

- National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-4673
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233

## Report Housing Discrimination to Community Legal Aid:

[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.

