

Notice to All Tenants¹:
Information Regarding Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault,
Dating Violence And Stalking in State-Aided Public Housing

- **Protections for tenants:**
 - A tenant in state-aided public housing generally may not be evicted because the tenant is or has been a victim of domestic violence.
 - With limited exceptions, if a tenant is a victim of domestic violence and removes the abuser from the unit, the Local Housing Authority shall not evict the non-abuser tenant/remaining household members for damage, disturbance, or other lease violation caused by the abuser.
 - These protections also apply to victims of sexual assault, dating violence and stalking.

- **Requesting a lock change:**
 - Tenants/household members who reasonably believe that they are under an imminent threat of domestic violence, rape, sexual assault or stalking at the premises also have the right to request that the LHA change the locks to their dwelling unit and deny the abuser a key to the new lock. If the LHA fails to change the locks within 2 business days, tenants may change the locks and must make a good faith effort to provide a key to the LHA within 2 business days in accordance with the law ([Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 186, section 26](#)).

- **Moving to another unit:**
 - Upon a tenant's request to move to another unit due to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking, where moving to another unit would help the tenant to be safer, the LHA may provide an administrative transfer to an appropriate size unit owned by the LHA within the LHA's state-aided public housing portfolio, subject to unit availability.

- **Resources:**
 - SafeLink (877) 785-2020 or <http://www.casamyrna.org/chat> (includes options for the Deaf and hard of hearing), the state domestic violence hotline. SafeLink is a toll-free domestic violence Massachusetts hotline that provides callers 24/7 live response in English, Spanish, Portuguese, with access to translation in more than 130 languages. See also <http://www.casamyrna.org>.
 - The National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 (1-800-787-3224 (TTY) for persons with hearing impairments).
 - Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network's National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800-656-HOPE (or visit the online hotline at <https://ohl.rainn.org/online/>).
 - National Center for Victims of Crime's Stalking Resource Center at <https://www.victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center>.

¹ The term "tenant" generally includes members of the tenant household.