

Massachusetts Tenant-Landlord Resources: State Law Library

Resource Links at: <http://www.lawlib.state.ma.us/landlord.html>

- [Legal Tactics](#), 6th ed., Annette R. Duke, editor, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, 2003, (Includes forms). Just about the **best book** written on Massachusetts tenants' rights, now available on the web.
- [Live Justice](#), Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts. Great resource for landlord/tenant issues. Offers a [free e-mail service to get answers from attorneys](#) for those who qualify (low income or over 60). Site also has a [database of previously answered questions](#).
- [The Air in There--Asthma in the Home: A Guide for Landlords, Tenants and Homeowners](#), Mass. Attorney General. Outlines steps landlords and tenants can take to minimize environmental triggers for asthma.
- The Brothel Myth. [Urban Legends Reference Page: College](#), Snopes.com. Explains the history of the myth, but suggests that no proof has ever been produced that a law exists anywhere which prohibits more than four or six unrelated females from living together under a "brothel law." "
- [The Good Neighbors Handbook: A Guide for Boston Landlords and Tenants](#), City of Boston's Rental Housing Resource Center. A 78-page guide that covers finding an apartment, finding a tenant, roommates, information for students, security deposits, utilities, low-income housing, lodging houses, evictions, condominium conversion, fire and more.
- [Houseman: The Action for Boston Community Development Handbook of Landlord/Tenant Rights and Responsibilities](#), ABCD.
- [Housing and CORI](#), Mass. Legal Help. Explains the access of a potential landlord to your criminal history, and how to obtain housing if you have a criminal record. Covers both public and private housing.
- [Housing Court Frequently Asked Questions](#). Mass. Housing Court.
- [How to Be a Landlord in Massachusetts and Avoid Legal Trouble](#), A. Joseph Ross.
- [Landlord Rights and Responsibilities](#), Mass. Office of Consumer Affairs . Includes how to find tenants, security deposits, right of entry, evictions and more.
- ["Psychologically impacted" Properties, MGL c. 93, s.114](#). Sellers and brokers do not have to disclose to buyers or tenants the fact that a property is perceived to be tainted by the health of a previous occupant, a murder or suicide, or paranormal phenomena.
- [Rights and Duties of Landlords and Tenants](#), Mass. Bar Association
- [Roommates](#), Nolo.com. Includes articles on renting an apartment with roommates, and adding and subtracting roommates, which discuss the issues in very general terms.
- [Safe and Sanitary Housing for Massachusetts Residents: Highlights of Chapter II of the State Sanitary Code](#), Mass. Secretary of the Commonwealth, Citizen Information Service.
- [Tenant/Landlord Information](#), Mass. Office of Consumer Affairs
- [The Tenant's Helper: A Handbook for Renters](#), 6th edition, Sept. 2006 , City of Somerville. This 66-page book covers the usual information, like security deposits and evictions, but also includes information on discrimination, roommates, and tenants' rights after the sale of a building. Great resource.
- [Tenants Facing Foreclosure](#), Mass. Legal Help. "Describes the foreclosure process, how to deal with these new owners, and how foreclosure affects your rights and responsibilities as a tenant." Provides key information, including eviction and how to get your security deposit back.
- [What Tenants in Foreclosed Buildings Should Know](#), City of Boston. Provides a list of basic tips and information for tenants
- **The Metro Boston Housing Partnership (MBHP)** offers workshops for property owners. Their website provides information on renting to people with special needs and/or Sec. 8 Housing Subsidies: www.mbhp.org
- **The Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston** provides guidance on your responsibilities as a landlord, specifically in regard to tenants who are members of protected classes: www.bostonfairhousing.org