



# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Middlesex Sheriff's Office

### Civil Process Division

## HOUSING ASSISTANCE and COURT RESOURCES

You are being provided this document because you have been served a Notice to Quit. This information is **NOT** intended to provide any legal advice from the Middlesex Sheriff's Office but is intended to solely provide information and resources that you may utilize to assist you during this process. This is not an exhaustive list and other information and resources may be available.

### State Emergency Rental & Mortgage Assistance

Renters and Homeowners who are struggling to make housing payments are encouraged to apply for emergency assistance. You may be eligible for assistance to pay overdue or upcoming rent, mortgage payments, or moving costs (First, Last, Security Deposit). Any income-eligible individuals and families affected by COVID-19 or who are struggling to make housing payments, may apply. You can apply for the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program by applying online at [Residential Assistance for Families in Transition \(RAFT\) program | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/residential-assistance-for-families-in-transition-raft-program). **APPLY IMMEDIATELY.** Due to unprecedented need during COVID-19, application processing can take several weeks and funds are not guaranteed.

**Attention Renters, Homeowners, and Landlords:** To find information about available financial assistance or to find the regional administering agency for your city/town go to: [www.mass.gov/CovidHousingHelp](https://www.mass.gov/CovidHousingHelp) or call 211 for assistance. Hablar Español ir a: [www.mass.gov/info-details/emergency-housing-assistance-during-covid-19-es](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/emergency-housing-assistance-during-covid-19-es)

### Rental and Mortgage Assistance Programs

Cambridge/Everett/Malden/Medford/Somerville Residents: Just-A-Start Program <a href="https://www.justastart.org/">www.justastart.org/</a> 617-494-0444 <a href="mailto:contact@justastart.org">contact@justastart.org</a>	Lowell Area Residents: Community Teamwork Inc. <a href="https://www.commteam.org">www.commteam.org</a> 978-459-0551
Massachusetts Association for Community Action: <a href="https://www.masscap.org/programs/housing-programs/">www.masscap.org/programs/housing-programs/</a> 617-357-6086 <a href="mailto:info@masscap.org">info@masscap.org</a>	Somerville Residents: Somerville Office of Housing and Stability: <a href="https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/office-strategic-planning-and-community-development-ospcd/office-housing-stability">www.somervillema.gov/departments/office-strategic-planning-and-community-development-ospcd/office-housing-stability</a> 617-625-6600 ext. 2581
South Middlesex Opportunity Council: <a href="https://www.smoc.org/">www.smoc.org/</a> 508-872-4853	HomeBASE <a href="https://www.mass.gov/service-details/homebase">www.mass.gov/service-details/homebase</a> Housing Consumer Education Center 800-224-5124 DHCD Division of Housing Stabilization 866-584-0653 Dial 211 for general information about programs in your area that may be able to help you, or visit: <a href="https://www.mass211help.org">www.mass211help.org</a>

## **Legal Assistance and Advocacy**

Limited Assistance Representation <a href="http://www.mass.gov/info-details/limited-assistance-representation-information-for-the-public">www.mass.gov/info-details/limited-assistance-representation-information-for-the-public</a> **Contact the court where your case is for more information**	Greater Boston Area Residents: Harvard Legal Aid Bureau (during the school year, September - April) 617-495-4408
De Novo – Center for Justice and Healing <a href="http://www.denovo.org/">www.denovo.org/</a> 617-661-1010	

## **Other Agencies and Programs**

Cambridge Residents: Cambridge Multi Service Center: <a href="http://www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP/programsforadults/cambridgemultiservicecenter">www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP/programsforadults/cambridgemultiservicecenter</a> 617-349-6340	Massachusetts Housing & Shelter Alliance 617-367-6447 <a href="mailto:info@mhsa.net">info@mhsa.net</a>
For other agencies in your area go to: <a href="https://hedfuel.azurewebsites.net">https://hedfuel.azurewebsites.net</a>	

## **Commonwealth of Massachusetts Housing Court Information**

The Tenancy Preservation Program (TPP) is a homelessness prevention program. TPP works with tenants, including families with children with disabilities, facing eviction as a result of behavior related to a disability (e.g. mental illness, mental retardation, substance abuse, aging related impairments). TPP functions as a neutral party to the landlord and tenant. In consultation with the Housing Court Department, TPP works with the property owner and tenant to determine whether the disability can be reasonably accommodated and the tenancy preserved. TPP specialists assess the reasons for the eviction, identify needed services, develop a treatment plan to maintain the tenancy, and monitor the case for as long as is necessary. TPP makes regular reports to all parties involved in the case (i.e. the Court, property owner, and tenant). Though not a housing search program, if the tenancy cannot be preserved, TPP coordinates the tenant's transition to a more appropriate placement, preventing homelessness whenever possible. Contact the Housing Court for more information: 617-788-6500

## **Housing Specialist Department**

Housing Specialist Department Housing specialists (HSD) are employees of the court who serve as mediators for cases that are filed in the Housing Court. They provide information about Massachusetts housing laws to the public and assist parties to reach a settlement. The housing specialists can provide information and referrals to resources that are available in your local community. To contact the HSD, please see their respective divisional numbers: Northeast Housing Specialist Department 978-689-7833 ext.502-1068 / Central Housing Specialist Department 508-831- 2050 / Eastern Housing Specialist Department 617-788-6233

For more Housing Court information go to: [www.mass.gov/guides/housing-court-resources](http://www.mass.gov/guides/housing-court-resources)