If something like this has happened to you, or you think you may have been discriminated against in housing, because you were a victim of domestic violence, we may be able to help you!

CONTACT US!!

Hablamos Español

Housing Discrimination Project

Massachusetts Fair Housing Center

57 Suffolk Street, Holyoke MA

(800) 675-7309

(413) 539-9796 (phone)

(413) 533-9978 (fax)

info@massfairhousing.org

"Victims of domestic violence often return to abusive partners because they cannot find long-term housing” - 42 U.S.C. Section 14043c(7)

The Housing Rights of Victims of Domestic Violence

"Victims of domestic violence often return to abusive partners because they cannot find long-term housing”*

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Hablamos Español
**DID YOU KNOW?**

- Domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness for women.
- Housing discrimination against female victims of domestic violence is well documented.
- Housing discrimination against female victims can take many different forms.
- Female victims of domestic violence are threatened with eviction and face discrimination in applying for new housing.
- Federal and state anti-discriminatory laws provide some protection for female victims of domestic violence.
- Federal law protects the rights of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking in public and Section 8 housing.

**HAS SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENED TO YOU?**

- Donna's boyfriend assaulted her in the apartment they shared. Donna called the police and obtained a restraining order preventing him from returning to the home. When the landlord found out about the assault, he sent Donna and her boyfriend an eviction notice for violating the lease and engaging in criminal conduct in the apartment.

- Donna finally found an apartment in public housing. After two months, her boyfriend located her, broke into the apartment and again assaulted Donna. Donna pressed criminal charges against him and asked the public housing authority to transfer her to a different apartment building for her personal safety. The public housing authority said no because its transfer policy only allows transfers for renovations. The Housing Authority also told Donna that she was responsible for the property damage caused by her boyfriend.

- After she received the eviction letter, Donna began searching for a new apartment. When a landlord asked her why she was moving, she explained that she had been a victim of domestic violence. The landlord said that he was afraid the violence would continue in the new apartment and he refused to rent to her.