

RESOURCES

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCES:

Domestic Violence Statewide Helpline
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence
800-MD HELPS (634-3577)
301-352-4574
www.mnadv.org

Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI), a
division of the Maryland Coalition Against
Sexual Assault
877-496-SALI (toll free)
301-565-2277
www.mcasa.org

LEGAL ASSISTANCE:

Homeless Person Representation
Project, Inc. (HPRP)
1800 N. Charles St., Suite 206
Baltimore, MD 21201
800-773-4340 (toll free)
410-685-6589
www.hprplaw.org
(Section 8 and other
subsidized housing
tenants only)

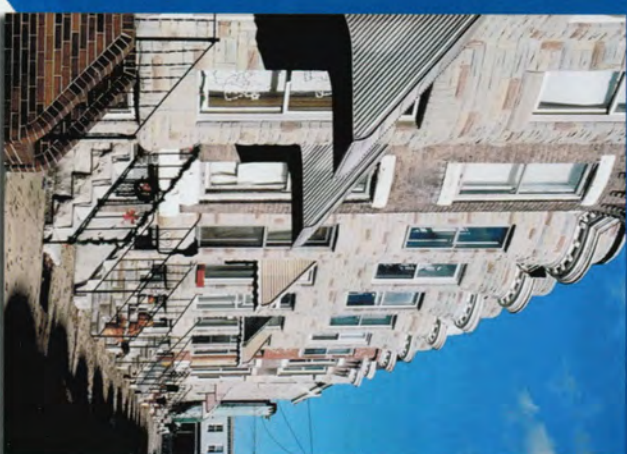
Legal Aid Bureau
500 East Lexington St.
Baltimore, MD 21202
866-635-2948 (toll free)
410-951-7750 (intake)
www.mdlab.org

House of Ruth Domestic
Violence Legal Clinic
410-889-RUTH
(24 Hour Hotline)
Legal Office:
888-880-7884 (toll free)
410-554-8463
www.hruth.org

Multi-Ethnic Domestic
Violence Project (MEDOV):
Women's Law Center
410-396-3294
www.wlcmd.org
(for foreign born victims)

For more information on the Rental
Housing-Protection for Victims of
Domestic Violence and Sexual
Assault Act, please visit:
www.peoples-law.org.

This brochure was authored by the Safe
Homes Coalition (which includes the
Homeless Persons Representation
Project, House of Ruth, Legal Aid
Bureau, Maryland Network Against
Domestic Violence, Women's Law
Center, Public Justice Center, Maryland
Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and the
University of Baltimore School of Law
Civil Advocacy Clinic and Family Law
Clinic).



RENTAL HOUSING PROTECTION

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault In Maryland



School of Law

This brochure is intended to inform
the public and not to serve as legal advice.

A VICTIM'S RIGHT

Getting Out of Your Lease



You can end your lease early if you are a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault who needs to move for your safety if:

1. you are a victim of domestic violence and you have a protective order, or you are a victim of sexual assault and you have a peace order; and
2. you give your landlord 30 days written notice prior to ending your lease and a copy of your court order.

You must pay rent for 30 days after giving your landlord written notice and a copy of the protective order or peace order.

Changing Your Locks



Your landlord is required to change your locks if:

1. you are a victim of domestic violence and you have a protective order, or you are a victim of sexual assault and you have a peace order; and
2. you ask your landlord, in writing, to change your locks and include a copy of your order.

Your landlord must change the locks by the end of the next business day.

Your landlord may charge a reasonable fee for changing the locks. You must pay the fee within 45 days.

If you do not pay the fee, the landlord can add the amount to your rent or withhold it from your security deposit.

If your landlord does not change the locks by the end of the next business day, you can hire a certified locksmith to change the locks. Give your landlord a copy of the new key by the end of the next business day.

Eviction Defense



If your landlord tries to evict you because of an incident of domestic violence or sexual assault:

1. you should go to court and tell the judge what happened; and
2. if you have a protective order or peace order, bring it with you to court to give the judge.

If you do not have a protective order or peace order:

1. you should tell the judge that you are a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault; and
2. bring any proof of the domestic violence or sexual assault with you to court, such as a police report, doctor's report, pictures, etc.

The law requires the judge to consider any evidence about domestic violence or sexual assault in eviction cases.