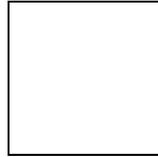


Be Alert for the Signs of Discrimination !



Misrepresenting the Availability of Housing: A landlord, owner, or real estate agent tells you that the housing is unavailable, when in fact, it has not been rented or sold.

Steering: A real-estate agent, landlord, or owner offers you housing only in neighborhoods where there are other families with young children, or limits your ability to view an apartment or home based on the presence of lead paint.

Refusals to Rent or Sell: A landlord or real estate agent refuses to rent or sell to you because you are pregnant or have children under age 6 or because there may be lead paint in the unit.

Discriminatory Advertising: Any written statement, including newspaper ads, or any oral statement that indicates or implies that no children are allowed (except in specifically designated elderly housing).

Harassment : A landlord, neighbor or other person harasses you because you have young children or because you request lead abatement.

Pressure to Give up Your Rights : A landlord discloses the presence of lead paint but forces you to sign a “release” absolving him or her from any liability if your child gets sick from the lead.

COMMUNITY
LEGAL AID

Worcester Fair Housing Project
405 Main Street, 4th Floor
Worcester, MA 01608

DANGER: LEAD PAINT

DANGER: DISCRIMINATION



PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS!

**Worcester Fair Housing
Project (WFHP) of
Community Legal Aid & the
Office of Human Rights**

We Can Help !

**LEAD PAINT IS A SERIOUS
HEALTH HAZARD FOR
CHILDREN AGE 6 AND
YOUNGER.**



**SOME DANGERS OF
LEAD POISONING:**

- *stunted growth
- *damaged hearing
- *lowered IQ
- *nerve and brain damage
- *possible fatality

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**DO YOU HAVE
YOUNG CHILDREN?**

- ***Has a landlord refused to show you an apartment because it contains lead paint?
- ***Have you been asked or pressured to sign away your right to sue a landlord for lead poisoning?
- ***Has your landlord refused to remove or abate lead paint in your home?

**THESE ACTIONS ARE
ILLEGAL!**

It is against the law for a property owner to refuse to rent or sell to a family with children because there are or may be hazardous levels of lead paint in an apartment or house. It is also illegal for a property owner to refuse to remove or cover hazardous lead paint if a child under age six resides in a unit or will reside there in the future. Owners cannot force tenants to pay the cost of lead abatement or removal.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- *Save all advertisements for apartments you were not allowed to see because of lead paint and get the name of anyone who steers you away.
- *Ask your landlord to show you the property's lead certificate or to arrange for a lead inspector. Follow up all requests in writing.
- *Call the Worcester Fair Housing Project (WFHP) for assistance!

WHAT THE WFHP CAN DO:

- *Advise your landlord of his or her responsibility to cover or remove ("abate") the lead in your apartment.
- *Protect your rights during lead abatement.
- *Represent you in court if your landlord fails to comply with the lead law.

**Fair Housing is the Law !
Always report any incident
of discrimination.**

**Contact:
Office of Human Rights & Disabilities
City Hall Room 101
455 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608
508-799-8486
humanrights@worcesterma.gov**