

## INFORMATION FOR TENANTS FACING EVICTION

The Massachusetts Eviction Moratorium, which temporarily stopped most evictions, expired on October 17, 2020. The District Court and the Housing Court are scheduling hearings in cases that were on hold during the moratorium. Landlords are also sending termination notices (notices to quit) and filing new eviction cases. Here are some resources that are available to tenants.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- **RAFT** (Residential Assistance for Families in Transition) includes up to \$4,000 in rental assistance for eligible families. Up to \$10,000 will be available in certain situations. Apply for RAFT and other financial assistance for tenants and homeowners at Berkshire Housing Development Corp. <https://berkhousing.wpengine.com> or call 413-499-1630. **Other assistance, including mediation, may be available through Berkshire Housing Development.**
- **Fuel Assistance (LIHEAP)** can help tenants afford their utilities. Apply at Berkshire Community Action Council, Inc. <https://bcacinc.org/fuel-assistance> or call (413) 445-4503

### LEGAL ASSISTANCE – COMMUNITY LEGAL AID

- Tenants who have received a Notice to Quit or court eviction papers can apply for legal assistance at Community Legal Aid. Call 855-CLA-LEGAL (855-252-5342) or apply online at [www.communitylegal.org](http://www.communitylegal.org).

### TENANT PROTECTIONS - CDC MORATORIUM

- The Center for Disease Control (CDC) issued an eviction moratorium through December 31, 2020. Tenants must give their landlord a declaration in order to be covered by this moratorium. More information is available here: <https://www.masslegalhelp.org/covid-19/housing>.

### THE NEW COURT PROCESS

Most court events will be held over Zoom. If a tenant has questions about the court date or whether the court event is in person or over Zoom, contact the court:

Housing Court (413) 748-7838 or [WesternHousingCourt@jud.state.ma.us](mailto:WesternHousingCourt@jud.state.ma.us)

Pittsfield District Court (413) 499-0558 or [cmpittsfielddc@jud.state.ma.us](mailto:cmpittsfielddc@jud.state.ma.us)

Norther Berkshire District Court (413) 663-5339 or [cmnorthernberkshiredc@jud.state.ma.us](mailto:cmnorthernberkshiredc@jud.state.ma.us)