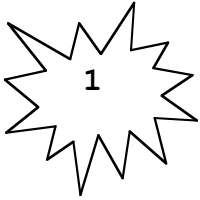


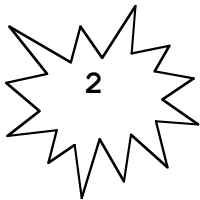
OPENING THE DOOR:

Understanding Housing



How do public housing laws affect people with criminal convictions?

- In general, public housing in the District of Columbia is difficult to get into. The waiting list is very long, and parole restrictions may mean you cannot live with someone in public housing.
- Individual who have been evicted from public, federally assisted, or Section 8 housing because of drug related criminal activity are not eligible for public or federally assisted housing for 3 years.
- Remember, the housing provider has the power to shorten the 3 year period IF the person completes an approved rehabilitation program successfully.
- Any household with a member subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a state sex offender program is not eligible for public, federally assisted, and Section 8 housing.
- Any household with a member who is currently abusing alcohol or illegally using drugs which interferes with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of other residents is not eligible for public, federally assisted, or Section 8 housing.
- If you have engaged in any criminal activities involving drugs, violence, or one in which it would affect the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises, you may be denied public, federally assisted, or Section 8 housing.
- The provider may allow you to remain in your housing if you demonstrate that you are not involved in criminal activities and have been rehabilitated through participation in or have completed a program.

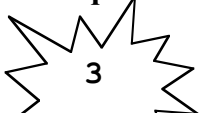


How does my criminal record affect me in obtaining public housing?

- Public housing agencies and Section 8 housing providers have the right to get your criminal records.
- If you are denied housing or evicted because of your criminal record, you must be provided with a copy of your criminal record and be given the opportunity to justify yourself.

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For questions about this topic, please contact DCPLSP at (202) 775-0323.



Where should I live?

- If you have family to support you while you get started, it may be a good idea to live with them.
- If you feel that going back to your old neighborhood will be a means to participate in illegal activities, it may be a good idea to start new somewhere else.
- An overnight shelter, which sometimes offer showers, laundry facilities, meals, and support services.
- Transitional housing, where you can stay for a temporary period. It gives you a chance to get a job, earn money, and be able to afford a permanent place to stay when you leave.
- Single Room Occupancy housing, in which you have your own bedroom, but you may be sharing a bathroom or kitchen with others.
- Family housing, which is an option for people you need to make a change in their lives because of personal problems, such as substance abuse.



Discrimination

- In the District of Columbia, you can not be denied housing based on your race, color, national origin, sex, age, income, religion, marital status, sexual orientation, appearance, handicap, or because you have a responsibility toward your child(ren), and if you are eligible for TANF (Temporary Aid to Needy Families).
- If you feel that you have been discriminated against, you can file a claim with the Office of Human Rights, or the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, Landlord/Tenant Relations.

Office of Human Rights
441 4th Street NW
Suite #970-North
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 727-5449

DC Dept. of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
Landlord/Tenant Relations
941 North Capital Street NE
Washington, D.C. 20002
(202) 442-8949

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DISCLAIMER: This document is not intended to replace the advice of any attorney. This document does not represent legal advice by the DCPLSP, and should not be relied upon as an ex-offender's sole resource in dealing with housing issues.