



Disability Law Center's Self-Advocacy Materials

Updated August 2023

COVID-19

This document is designed for people with disabilities. The information is about your legal rights and how to advocate for yourself as a resident in Massachusetts.

Contact us to request this information in an alternative format.

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Funding

DLC receives funding from government grants, private foundations, and individual contributions. For details about our funding and programs, please visit our website:

<https://dlc-ma.org>



Legal Resources Related to COVID 19

This document includes general information about legal issues and is intended to be used for informational purposes only. These informational materials should not be taken as legal advice, and do not create an attorney-client relationship. The outcome of any particular matter will depend on a variety of factors. For specific legal problems you would need to contact an attorney.

For general (non-COVID specific) legal information on issues affecting the rights of individuals with disabilities, please visit DLC's Information for Consumers page at <https://www.dlc-ma.org/info-for-consumers/>

Other general (non-COVID specific) resources:

MassLegalHelp - General Legal Questions on the following issues:

- Children and Families; Consumer & Debt; CORI Records; Domestic Violence, Employment/Unemployment Insurance; Health and Mental Health; Housing and Homelessness; Immigration; Income and Benefits; School
<https://www.masslegalhelp.org/>

Legal Resource Finder - Find Legal Aid: <https://www.masslegalservices.org/findlegalaid>

ABA Massachusetts Free Legal Answers Online: <https://mass.freelegalanswers.org/>

General COVID-related Information

- **CDC Coronavirus Information**
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- **ASL Videos from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvrp9iOILTQatwnqm61jqFrSfUB4RKh6J>
- **COVID-19 Updates and Information**
 - <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information>
- **Massachusetts COVID-19 Response Reporting**
 - <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-cases-quarantine-and-monitoring>
- **State of Massachusetts COVID-19 Guidance & Directives**
 - <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-guidance-and-directives>
- **Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General: Resources During COVID-19**
 - <https://www.mass.gov/guides/resources-during-covid-19>
- **Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission**
 - <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/coronavirus-updates-from-mrc>
- **Administration for Community Living: Information for Older Adults and People with Disabilities**
 - <https://acl.gov/COVID-19>

City of Boston COVID information pages

- **General information**
 - <https://www.boston.gov/news/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-boston>
- **Resource guide for Boston's Immigrants**
 - <https://www.boston.gov/news/covid-19-resource-guide-bostons-immigrants>

- **Boston Public Health Commission**
 - <https://www.boston.gov/government/cabinets/boston-public-health-commission>
- **Boston Center for Independent Living**
 - <https://bostoncil.org/>
- **Rental Relief Fund**
 - <https://www.boston.gov/departments/neighborhood-development/office-housing-stability/rental-relief-fund>
- **Homelessness resources**
 - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ux3uC16HyeLIPEPutqGpQEabxkwltqFqUOUzA-sMxyc/edit>
- **MBTA information**
 - <https://www.mbta.com/covid19>

Benefits

- **DTA Resources and Support (SNAP, TAFDC, EAEDC) – General**
 - <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/dta-covid-19-resources-and-support>
- **“DTA Listens” (DTA Twitter feed)**
 - https://twitter.com/DTA_Listens
- **Social Security Administration**
 - <https://www.ssa.gov/coronavirus/>
- **Stimulus payment information**
 - <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payments-what-you-need-to-know>

Courts

- **Court System Response to COVID** <https://www.mass.gov/guides/court-system-response-to-covid-19>

Department of Developmental Services

- **DDS COVID-19 Resources and Support**
 - <https://www.mass.gov/dds-covid-19-resources-and-support>
- **Mass.gov “Coronavirus Update for Individuals and Families”**
 - <https://www.mass.gov/news/coronavirus-update-for-individuals-and-families>

Education

- **EdLaw Project**
 - See COVID-19 Updates and COVID-19 Resources on top menu bar
<http://www.edlawproject.org>
- **Department of Education**

- Questions and Answers on Providing Services to Children with Disabilities During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/qa-covid-19-03-12-2020.pdf>
- Resources for all Education related matters (K-12 and Higher Education): <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus>
- OCR webinar on Online Education and Website Accessibility (with captions) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCMLk4cES6A&feature=youtu.be>
- **Child Nutrition Outreach Program**
 - School Closure Meal Information <https://meals4kids.org/summer>
- **Special Education Resources:**
 - Massachusetts Advocates for Children: <https://massadvocates.org/>
 - Federation for Children with Special Needs: <https://fcsn.org/>
- **COVID-19 and College Accommodations**
 - <https://accessiblecollege.com/2020/03/18/covid-19-and-college-accommodations/>

Elections

- **The US Election Assistance Commission (EAC) Coronavirus Resource Page**
 - <https://www.eac.gov/election-officials/coronavirus-covid-19-resources>

Employment

- **U.S Equal Employment Opportunity Commission**
 - <https://www.eeoc.gov/wysk/what-you-should-know-about-covid-19-and-ada-rehabilitation-act-and-other-eeo-laws>
- **Job Accommodation Network (JAN)**
 - <https://askjan.org/topics/COVID-19.cfm>
- **Fair Labor Standards Act and COVID-19 Requirements**
 - <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/flsa/pandemic>
- **Leave issues**
 - FMLA and COVID-19 <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/fmla/pandemic>
- **MassLegal Services**
 - Earned Sick Time Law in Massachusetts <https://www.masslegalservices.org/system/files/library/EarnedSickTimememo.pdf>
- **Unemployment Insurance**
 - Unemployment Fact Sheet <https://www.masslegalservices.org/covid-19-and-ui>
- **COVID FAQs for Employers**
 - <https://foleyhoag.com/publications/alerts-and-updates/2020/march/covid19-faqs-for-employers>

Finances and Consumer Issues

- **Guidance for Businesses and Organizations**
 - <https://www.boston.gov/news/economic-development-update-coronavirus-covid-19>
- **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau**
 - Protect yourself Financially from the Impact of the Coronavirus
<https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/blog/protect-yourself-financially-from-impact-of-coronavirus/>

HealthCare

- **MassHealth:**
 - **Prescriptions and Pharmacy Facts**
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/pharmacy-facts-141-march-12-2020-0/download>
 - **Coverage Provided via Hospital-Determined Presumptive Eligibility**
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/all-provider-bulletin-288-coverage-provided-via-hospital-determined-presumptive-eligibility/download>
 - **Updates to the Hospital-Determined Presumptive Eligibility (HPE) Application Process**
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/eom-20-06-updates-to-the-hospital-determined-presumptive-eligibility-hpe-application-process-0/download>
 - **Telehealth Services**
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/march-15-2020-telehealth-order/download>
 - **Frequently Asked Questions**
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/masshealth-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-applicants-and-members>
- **PCA Workforce Council**
 - Link to Hotline and Guidance and Directives: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/personal-care-attendant-workforce-council>

Housing

- **Department of Housing and Community Development**
 - <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-dhcd-website>
- **Housing Court Standing Orders regarding housing operations during Coronavirus outbreak**
 - <https://www.mass.gov/guides/court-system-response-to-covid-19#-housing-court->
- **National Low-Income Housing Coalition**
 - Coronavirus and Housing/Homelessness
<https://nlihc.org/coronavirus-and-housing-homelessness>
- **Citizens' Housing and Planning Association**
 - COVID-19 Affordable Housing Updates
<https://www.chapa.org/housing-news/covid-19-affordable-housing-updates>

- **MassLegal Services**
 - Illegal Evictions <https://www.masslegalhelp.org/health-mental-health/covid-19-illegal-eviction>

Legal Services

- **Mass Legal Services COVID-19 homepage**
 - <https://www.masslegalservices.org/library-directory/covid-19>
- **MassLegalHelp**
 - You Can Get a 209A Restraining Order when the Courts are Closed
<https://www.masslegalhelp.org/domestic-violence/209a-guidelines/closed-courts>

Mental Health

- **DMH: Maintaining Emotional Health and Well-Being**
 - <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/maintaining-emotional-health-well-being-during-the-covid-19-outbreak>
- **Information about DMH Programs and Services**
 - <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-information-about-dmh-programs-and-services>
- **NAMI Massachusetts – Support Resource**
 - <https://namimass.org/resources/>