

About Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida (CLSMF)

The mission of CLSMF is to provide access to justice through high quality legal assistance to low-income persons.

CLSMF is a nonprofit legal aid organization which provides free legal assistance to low-income people with civil legal problems in twelve counties across Central Florida. Since 1966, dedicated CLSMF lawyers, paralegals, legal assistants and advocates have worked diligently to solve civil legal problems for people facing life-changing situations, such as domestic violence, unlawful eviction, or the loss of veterans' health or public benefits.

We are committed to delivering the highest quality legal aid, with dignity and respect, for those who are seeking access to justice.

**We do not provide legal assistance in criminal or traffic matters*



COMMUNITY
LEGAL SERVICES
of MID-FLORIDA

*BREVARD: 1-866-469-7444

CITRUS & SUMTER

106 N. Osceola Avenue, Inverness, FL 34450

CITRUS: (352) 726-6592

SUMTER: 1-800-984-2918

FLAGLER: 1-800-405-1417

HERNANDO: 1-866-801-5566

LAKE: (352) 343-6351

226 West Main Street, Tavares, FL 32778

MARION: (352) 629-6257

1610 SE 36th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471

*ORANGE (407) 841-7777

122 E. Colonial Drive, Suite 200, Orlando, FL 32801

OSCEOLA: (407) 933-1791

800 North Main Street, Kissimmee, FL 34744

PUTNAM: (386) 385-0928

216 S. 6th Street, Palatka, FL 32177

*SEMINOLE: (407) 322-6673

315 Magnolia Avenue, Sanford, FL 32771

VOLUSIA : (386) 258-5600

128 Orange Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Client toll-free number: 1-800-363-2357

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: (386)523-9181

**Certain legal services not offered*

info@clsmf.org

Apply for help online at:

www.clsmf.org



COMMUNITY
LEGAL SERVICES
of MID-FLORIDA

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND HOUSING



Have you experienced unwanted touching, unwanted sexual advances, sexual jokes, comments or gestures in your rental housing?

Fair Housing Laws may help you.

1. What are my rights?

Under state and federal laws, it is illegal for landlords or their employees to discriminate against tenants because of their sex. They also cannot sexually harass tenants. These laws are known as “fair housing laws.” They may protect you from sexual harassment and discrimination in housing.

2. What is sexual harassment?

Sexual harassment can be many things, such as sexual favors, unwanted sexual advances, touching or comments of a sexual nature.

For example:

- The landlord tells you he’ll only keep renting to you if you go on a date with him.
- A maintenance person comes to fix your sink and makes sexual jokes, comments, and gestures to you while there.
- Your property manager tells you, “I’ll take \$100 off your rent—if you...”
- You experience harassing behavior directed at you because of your sex.

3. Who must obey the law?

Fair housing laws apply to a variety of people including landlords, property managers, maintenance people and other tenants.

If the landlord or manager knew or should have known about the harassment and did not stop it, the landlord or manager could be held responsible.

4. What should I do if I have been sexually harassed?

If you are experiencing sexual harassment, act quickly. Tell someone about it. Write down the following:

- What happened.
- When and where it happened.
- The name of the harasser.
- The names, addresses, and phone numbers of any witnesses or any other tenants who have been harassed.

Keep any documents related to the harassment, such as:

- Notes or gifts from the harasser.
- Rent increase notices.
- Warning notices.
- Eviction notices.

5. Who can help me?

If you have been sexually harassed in your housing, contact a legal aid attorney or fair housing agency. They can help explain your rights and options. If you fear that the harasser may harm you or your family, call the police immediately.

6. Can I be evicted if I report the harassment?

It is illegal for the landlord to try to evict you or raise your rent for reporting the harassment. If you receive any type of eviction notice, call the legal aid office immediately.

7. What are some of my options?

If you are a victim of sexual harassment, some of your options include:

- Having legal aid contact the landlord to make the harassment stop.
- Having a fair housing agency investigate the harassment.
- Filing a complaint with government agencies.
- Suing the harasser in court.

You only have a limited time to enforce your rights, so it is important to seek help from legal aid or a fair housing agency quickly.

To file a complaint against your housing provider:

Call the Department of Housing and Urban Development at:

1-800-669-9777

To get counseling about the harassment you experienced:

Call the National Sexual Assault Hotline at:

1-800-656-4673