

## About Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida ( CLSMF )

Our mission is to provide access to justice through high quality legal assistance to low-income persons. **Domestic Violence cases have no income restrictions.**

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc. provides free legal assistance to eligible low-income persons in civil matters (we do not offer legal assistance in criminal or traffic matters).



### CLSMF OFFICES/HELP LINES

**\*BREVARD: 1-866-469-7444**

**CITRUS & SUMTER**  
106 N. Osceola Ave., Inverness, FL 34450  
(352) 726-6592 — CITRUS  
1-800-984-2918— SUMTER

**FLAGLER: 1-800-405-1417**

**HERNANDO: 1-866-801-5566**

**LAKE— (352) 343-6351**  
226 West Main St., Tavares, FL 32778

**MARION— (352) 629-6257**  
2300 SE 17th St. Suite 201  
Ocala, FL 34471

**\*ORANGE — (407) 841-7777**  
122 E. Colonial Drive, Suite 200  
Orlando, FL 32801

**OSCEOLA — (407) 933-1791**  
800 North Main St.,  
Kissimmee, FL 34744

**PUTNAM: (386) 385-0928**  
216 S. 6th Street,  
Palatka, FL 32177

**\*SEMINOLE: (407) 322-6673**  
315 Magnolia Ave  
Sanford, FL 32771

**VOLUSIA — (386) 258-5600**  
128 Orange Ave., Suite 100,  
Daytona Beach, FL 32114  
Client toll-free number: 1-800-363-2357

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:**  
(386)506-5396

**info@clsmf.org**  
**www.clsmf.org**

**\*Offices currently not offering  
Family Law services**



**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.
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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**