

*Diane** was the victim of domestic violence which caused her to flee her home with her children. They stayed in shelters for domestic violence victims and never returned to their former home. Diane's landlord filed a rent and eviction lawsuit against her. The housing authority then determined that she had abandoned her home and proposed to terminate her Section 8 rental assistance.



Attorneys in LSEM's Housing Law Program represented Diane in the eviction lawsuit and, after negotiating down the amount of rent and attorney's fees the landlord was demanding, they obtained the dismissal of the lawsuit.

Following this dismissal, Diane's LSEM attorneys supplied the housing authority with proof that she had left her Section 8 assisted home in good standing and that the lawsuit against her was dismissed.

Diane's attorneys also supplied proof that Diane was a victim of domestic violence and she had left the dwelling unit as a result of this abuse. The housing authority then reinstated Diane's Section 8 rental assistance in compliance with the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

Today, Diane and her children once again are safe in their own home, to which Diane is able to apply her Section 8 rental assistance.

*Name has been changed for privacy purposes.

An Investment in Our Community

The holistic and comprehensive services that LSEM provides assist client-families to achieve safety and create economic and family stability, which in turn strengthens the community.

Our Tagline reads "Pursuing Justice, Strengthening Lives", and with your help, we do just that. It is through our pursuit of justice that we continue to strengthen the lives of those we serve, empowering them to reach further and ultimately, live better. A contribution to LSEM is an investment in the region's infrastructure, which will pay rich dividends in the future.

While our work is focused on solving long-term problems for individuals and families, the impact ripples outward to benefit the entire community.

For information on how to help by making a donation, please call the Development Office at 314-256-8742.

Contact Information

For help, please call:

Main Office
4232 Forest Park Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63108
314-534-4200
1-800-444-0514

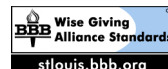
Union Outreach Office
20 South Church St., Ste. C
Union, MO 63084
636-583-7877
1-866-583-7877

Hannibal Branch Office
801 Broadway
Hannibal, MO 63401
573-248-1111
1-800-767-2018



For a listing of the 21 counties served by LSEM, and other information about the services we provide, please visit our website at www.lsem.org. Please also visit the statewide website at www.lsmo.org for additional resources.

The mission of LSEM is to provide high quality civil legal assistance and equal access to justice for low-income people in Eastern Missouri.



Housing Law Program



Legal Services
of Eastern Missouri

lsem.org



Serving 21 counties
in eastern Missouri

Overview

The Housing Law Program is a project of Legal Services of Eastern Missouri (LSEM) that provides free legal assistance to:

- Low-income tenants in all housing matters, including evictions, landlord-tenant lawsuits, or subsidized housing and fair housing issues.
- Homeowners facing condemnation or eviction after a foreclosure sale.
- Individuals or families experiencing homelessness who need assistance in removing barriers to obtaining housing.

For help,

please contact LSEM at

(314) 534-4200

or (800) 444-0514



The mission of the Housing Law Program is to preserve clients' access to habitable and affordable housing and to remove barriers to obtaining housing.

Typical cases include lease terminations and eviction lawsuits, fair housing rights, terminations of rental assistance and habitability and conditions concerns.

In addition to one-on-one legal representation provided by experienced housing attorneys, LSEM's Housing Law Program also offers:

- Legal education workshops to service providers, caseworkers, client groups and community members about various topics including landlord-tenant law, subsidized housing and fair housing issues.
- Legal outreach at community fairs and events, or at service providers' offices, to provide general information about the many services offered by LSEM; to complete intakes; and to answer some housing law questions.

LSEM's Housing Law Program may be able to assist you if:

- You are being evicted from your rental dwelling, whether it is private housing, public housing or other subsidized housing.
- Your landlord failed to make repairs to your home.
- You have a dispute with your landlord regarding your rent.
- Your landlord is discriminating against you because of your race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status or disability.
- Your landlord locked you out of your home.
- Your gas, electric or water have been shut off by your landlord.
- You are living in a home that is being sold at a foreclosure sale.
- A housing authority denied your application for Public Housing or Section 8.
- A housing authority is terminating your Section 8 assistance, or refusing to issue you a voucher.
- A housing authority failed to adjust your rent when your income changed or failed to add a family member to your voucher or failed to process your moving papers.
- A city or municipality condemned your home or rental dwelling.