



NOTICE REGARDING FRAUD

Anyone who commits fraud to obtain assisted housing is stealing. They are taking money from low-income families and individuals in need who are following the rules and telling the truth.

The Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development (LHAND) is committed to eliminating fraud and dishonesty from its programs and has an aggressive investigative unit called the Housing Integrity Program. Any incident of fraud will be investigated and could result in the termination of your housing assistance and you being accused of a federal crime.

Some examples of fraud include, but are not limited to:

1. Misstatements of facts, omission of facts, making false statements, lying on personal declaration forms.
2. Allowing unauthorized people to live in the assisted unit.
3. Failure to report all income and assets. Many people forget to report income from second jobs, part-time jobs, tips, overtime, babysitting, child support, or social security or disability benefits. **Regular contributions or gifts (monetary or not) from organizations or persons not living in your household is income and must be reported.**
4. Having a personal interest in the assisted unit or a relationship with the owner.

Your rent payment to your landlord must not be more than the amount calculated by LHAND and the total amount paid by both the tenant and LHAND must not exceed the amount listed in the lease agreement and HAP Contract. If the landlord asks you to pay more than determined by LHAND, you should report this immediately. LHAND will determine if the extra payments are illegal and appropriate action will be taken.

BE AWARE! Knowingly supplying false, incomplete, or inaccurate information is punishable under Federal or State criminal law. Supplying false or incomplete information verbally or in writing to LHAND staff may lead to termination from the housing assistance program, requirement to repay all overpaid rental assistance, arrest, fined up to \$10,000, imprisoned for up to 10 years, and/or prohibited from receiving future rental assistance.

If you know of any cases of fraud by other program applicants, tenants, property owners, contractors, or employees; or if you have any questions on this subject, please call the Housing Integrity Program unit at (781) 581-8740.