

Tenant Advocacy Project at Harvard Law School

Information for Tenants Seeking Legal
Representation

Who We Are



- The Tenant Advocacy Project (TAP) is a **Student Practice Organization** at Harvard Law School
- Law student advocates provide representation and advice to tenants under the supervision of an experienced housing attorney.
- TAP is located at 6 Everett Street in Cambridge, MA.

What We Do



TAP provides **free legal representation and advice** to public housing and Section 8 tenants and applicants in the following case types:

Public Housing
Evictions

Reasonable
accommodation
requests

Residual
tenancy
issues

Section 8
terminations

Transfer denials

Public housing
and Section 8
application
denials

What We Don't Do



- TAP does not provide any representation in court.
- TAP does not accept cases where the housing subsidy is not administered by a public housing agency (e.g. HUD-subsidized or MassHousing-subsidized housing).
- TAP does not handle Home Base cases.
- TAP does not provide landlord-tenant advice to tenants who do not have Section 8 or MRVP vouchers, or who do not live in public housing.

Our Service Area



- TAP represents tenants whose public housing, Section 8 or MRVP is administered at the following public housing agencies:
 - Arlington, Belmont, Boston (BHA), Braintree, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Milton, Newton, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, Waltham, Watertown, Wellesley, Winchester, Winthrop, Woburn; and Metro Housing Boston

Contacting TAP



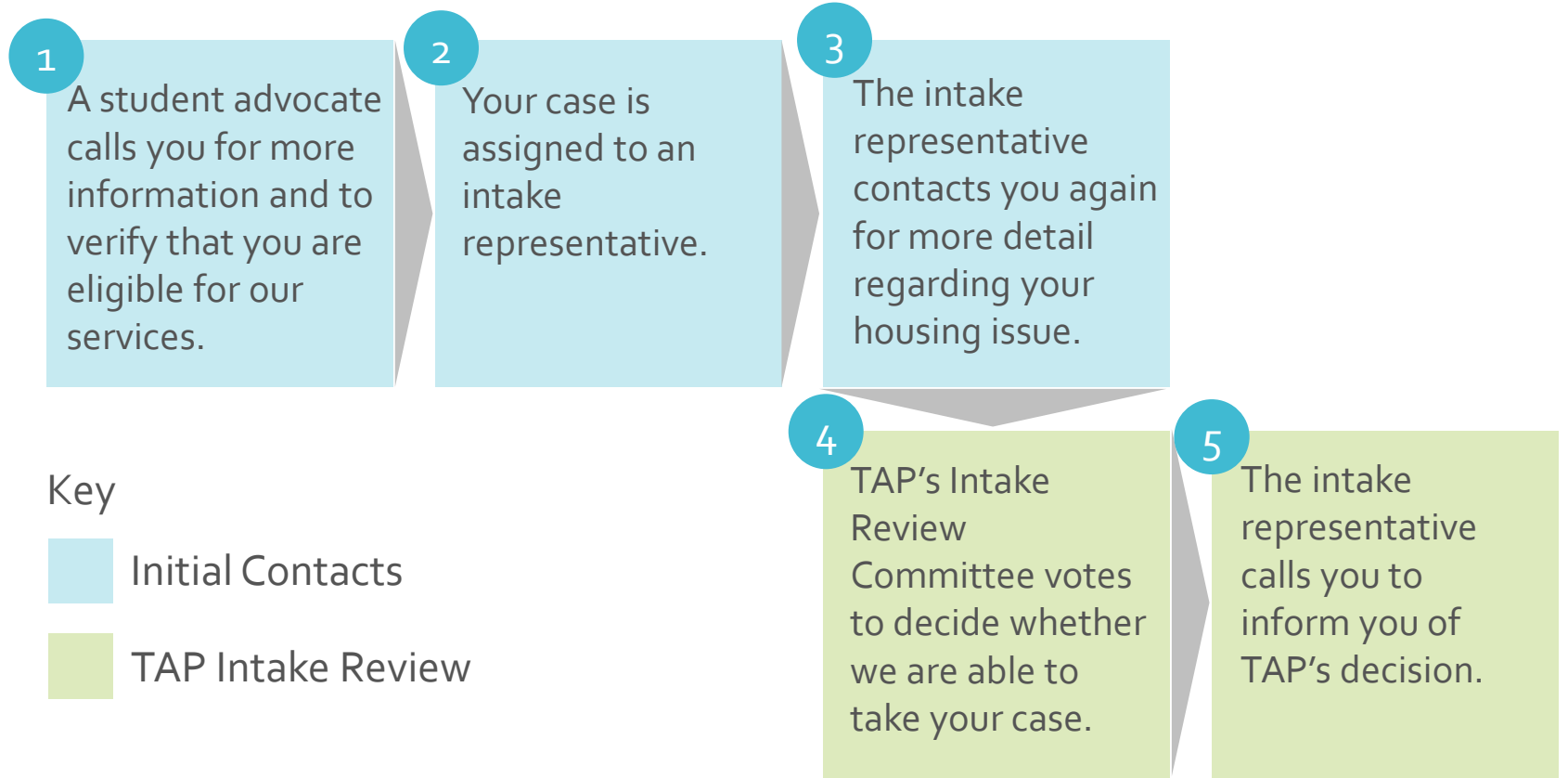
- **To request TAP assistance:**
 1. Call TAP at 617-495-4394 (Spanish-speaking intake representatives available if requested).
 2. Leave a short voicemail with the following information:
 - Your name;
 - Your phone number;
 - Your housing authority; and
 - A brief summary of your housing issue
 3. A student advocate will call you back as soon as possible (typically within 1-3 business days).

Call TAP at 617-495-4394

Contacting TAP



Our intake process



If TAP cannot take your case, we may provide advice or referrals as necessary and appropriate. Due to limited capacity, TAP cannot accept all cases.

Tips for Navigating TAP's Intake Process



- If possible, be prepared to **fax, email, or mail copies of any relevant documents to TAP**
 - e.g., a Notice of Proposed Termination, Notice to Quit, important communication records with your housing authority or leasing officer, etc.
- **Contact TAP sooner, rather than later.** If it is too early for us to get involved, we will let you know.
- Remember that you don't need TAP representation to request a hearing or a continuance.
- With transfer requests, rent share recalculations, and conditions issues, we usually provide advice but not full representation.

Other Civil Legal Resources in Massachusetts



- **Northeastern MA:** Northeastern Legal Aid (NLA)
- **Central and Western MA:** Community Legal Aid (CLA)
- **Southeastern MA:** South Coastal Counties Legal Aid (SCCLA)
- **Greater Boston Area:** Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS), Harvard Legal Aid Bureau (HLAB), Boston College Civil Litigation Clinic
- **For disability issues:** Disability Law Center
- **For children's issues:** Children's Law Center

Self-Help Legal Resources



- **MassLegalHelp.org offers:**
 - Sample letters/forms for a range of housing and non-housing issues, including:
 - Public and private housing evictions;
 - Public housing/Section 8 rent redeterminations;
 - Conditions problems;
 - Security deposits; and
 - Many other housing and non-housing-related legal issues.
 - Guides and booklets regarding:
 - How to navigate a public housing or Section 8 hearing process;
 - How to appeal a housing authority decision or denial;
 - How to protect your rights if you've been discriminated against; and
 - Many other housing and non-housing-related legal issues.