

David Esposito

From: Rachel Matthews <rachel.matthews@csh.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 5:34 PM
To: Johnna Lowe; Illinois Program; Chicago Office
Cc: David Esposito
Subject: Re: CHA Notice re: Marijuana

Well there goes the spirit of Housing First - up in smoke!

RM

From: Johnna Lowe <johnna.lowe@csh.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 5:16:12 PM
To: Illinois Program <il.program@csh.org>; Chicago Office <chicago.office@csh.org>
Cc: David Esposito <d.esposito@shpa-il.org>
Subject: FW: CHA Notice re: Marijuana

For your reading enjoyment!

Johnna

From: chicagoland-housing-connections@googlegroups.com [mailto:chicagoland-housing-connections@googlegroups.com] **On Behalf Of** Michelle Gilbert
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 9:37 AM
To: Housing PG <HousingPG@legalaidchicago.org>; CSU <CSU@legalaidchicago.org>; housinglaw@illinoislegalaid.org; Patricia Fron <pfron@cafha.net>; Michael Chavarria <mchavarria@hcp-chicago.org>; Chicagolandhousingconnections@gmail.com; chicagoland-housing-connections@googlegroups.com; Max Burns <mburns@allchicago.org>; Karen Kowal <KKowal@allchicago.org>; Rep. Kelly Cassidy <repcassidy@gmail.com>
Subject: [chicagoland-housing-connections] CHA Notice re: Marijuana

CHA sent the notice copied below to HCV participants (I imagine a similar notice went to public housing tenants, but I don't have a friendly public housing tenant who forwards me things).

The Notice presents a number of legal issues that we can bookmark for later. However, I wanted to circulate it (as well as an info sheet Legal Aid Chicago prepared) because I know that so many people who will be impacted by this policy may not think to call an attorney about it.



NOTICE

Under the Federal Controlled Substances Act, the use and/or possession of medical or recreational marijuana is seen as a criminal act, an illegal activity on the property and is strictly prohibited.

The Chicago Housing Authority's Marijuana Policy

Marijuana for medical use in the State of Illinois became legal on January 1, 2014 with the passing of the *Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act*.

On May 31, 2019, the State of Illinois passed the *Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act* legalizing and regulating the production, consumption and sale of Cannabis in Illinois and will come into effect January 1, 2020.

Despite these changes in state law, federal law still strictly prohibits marijuana use. Therefore, in accordance with federal law, medical or recreational use of marijuana is strictly prohibited in CHA's Housing Choice Voucher Program. This includes, but is not limited to, participants using vouchers in the private market, project-based vouchers (PRA, Mod Rehab and RAD2), including those with supportive services.

The CHA can TERMINATE all assistance, including your Housing Choice Voucher, if you, a member of your household, or a guest or person under your control is found engaging in drug-related criminal activity, including the use and/or possession of marijuana for medical or recreational purposes. The CHA does not require a conviction or arrest for the use and /or possession of marijuana to proceed with the termination of the assistance process.

The CHA WILL NOT permit the use of medical or recreational marijuana as a reasonable accommodation. Any reasonable accommodation request based on the use of marijuana will be immediately denied and the request will not be processed.

In addition to [English](#), this notice is available in the following languages:

[Arabic](#)

[Chinese](#)

[Hindi](#)

[Polish](#)

[Spanish](#)

If you have any questions, please contact us directly by calling the CHA Customer Call Center at 312-935-2600, or by replying to this email.

Sincerely,

HCV Program Staff



Michelle Gilbert (*She, Her, Hers*)
Supervisory Attorney, Housing Practice Group
p: 312.347.8315 **f:** 312.612.1415
120 South LaSalle Street, Suite 900, Chicago, IL 60603
www.legalaidchicago.org

Note: We have changed our name from LAF to **Legal Aid Chicago**.

Please update your address book with my new email address: mgilbert@legalaidchicago.org.

Notice: This communication, including attachments, may contain information that is confidential and protected by the attorney/client or other privileges. It constitutes non-public information intended to be conveyed only to the designated recipient(s). If you are not the intended recipient of this communication (or an employee or agent of the intended recipient who is responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient), or if you believe that you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail and promptly delete this e-mail, including any attachments, without reading or saving them in any manner. The unauthorized use, dissemination, distribution, or reproduction of this e-mail, including attachments, is prohibited and may be unlawful. Receipt by anyone other than the intended recipient(s) is not a waiver of any attorney/client or other privilege.

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The Administrator for this group is Tasa Proctor.

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Chicagoland Housing Connections" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to chicagoland-housing-connections+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/chicagoland-housing-connections/c124192008bb4d3da207d1ed00bb49da%40mail2.ad.lafchicago.org>.