

Portland Housing Authority
14 Baxter Boulevard, Portland, Maine 04101
(207) 773-4753

Public Housing Anti-Fraud Policy

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is seriously concerned about FRAUD in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and/or the Traditional Public Housing Program. Here are some guidelines and information to help you to recognize fraudulent practices.

Fraud is defined as a single act or pattern of actions that include false statements, the omission of information or the concealment of a substantive fact made with the intention of deceiving or misleading the Portland Housing Authority. It results in the inappropriate expenditure of housing funds and is a violation of housing requirements. Although there are numerous different types of fraud, the two most common are the failure to fully report all sources of income and the failure to accurately report who is residing in the residence.

Some examples of fraudulent practices include:

- Failure to report all income received by you and/or members of your household and any income you expect to receive in the following year, including but not limited to income from second jobs, overtime, part-time jobs and child support.
- Failure to report the names of everyone living in your household.
- Owners/manages that require extra (“side”) payments in excess of the family’s share of the rent. Your rent payments to Portland Housing Authority must not be more than the amount of the tenant rent listed on your letter from Portland Housing Authority calculated at the time of review. If you are now paying (or are asked by an owner/manager to pay) any money in addition to this payment, other than for maintenance fees or payment agreements, please report this to Portland Housing Authority at once.
- Owners/managers collecting assistance payments for units that are not occupied.
- Owners/managers bribing Portland Housing Authority employees to certify substandard units as standard.

Incidents of FRAUD, willful misrepresentation, or intent to deceive with regard to the program are criminal acts. If you are suspected of committing fraud, we are required to refer the matter to the proper authority for the appropriate action. When a fraudulent action is discovered, the Portland Housing Authority shall take action in one or more of the following ways, depending on the circumstances and what it deems appropriate.

- Require the resident to immediately repay the amount in question.
- Require the resident to enter into a satisfactory repayment agreement.
- Terminate the resident’s tenancy.
- Refer the case for criminal prosecution.
- Take other action, as the Portland Housing Authority deems appropriate.

If you know of any fraudulent activities committed by others, including Portland Housing Authority employees, we ask that you report this immediately to us at (207) 773-4753. Portland Housing Authority urges you to be sure that you are meeting these responsibilities so that you will continue to receive assistance.

Signature of all household adults (age 18 or over)

Date

PHA Staff Signature _____ **Date** _____