

DPH Support for Hoarding Situations

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The Department of Public Health's Bureau of Environmental Health (BEH) has a broad mission of protecting the public health from a variety of environmental exposures. Support to the Local Board of Health addressing hoarding situations is provided through BEH's Community Sanitation Program (CSP), which is responsible for the prevention of avoidable death and morbidity through the enforcement of the State Sanitary Code. CSP offers guidance to local health in the interpretation and enforcement of the housing regulations, 105 CMR 410.000: Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation (State Sanitary Code, Chapter II). These minimum standards were created to protect the health, safety and well-being of the occupants of housing and of the general public, to facilitate the use of legal remedies available to occupants of substandard housing, to assist boards of health in their enforcement of this code and to provide a method of notifying interested parties of violations of conditions which require immediate attention.

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