

My name is Geraldine Linewebber. I live with my brother Frank. We live in an apartment in New Britain. We are both in our mid-70s. My brother has mental and physical disabilities. I have taken care of him for many years. I can no longer care for him the way I once did because I have been sick too. I am now disabled. With help from the State of Connecticut we have been able to stay in the community. However, that help isn't enough. We also rely on the help of friends and family.

During the day, we have help from visiting nurses and homemaker companions. We do not have this assistance at night. Because my brother has disabilities, he needs help at night to use the bathroom and someone to check on him to make sure his oxygen mask stays on when he is sleeping. I also need help from time to time if I need to get up or take medication. We rely on friends and family to stay overnight to help us.

Last Spring, our landlord told us we were violating our lease by having someone live with us. We told the landlord that no one was living with us and that we were receiving assistance overnight. We provided a note from Frank's doctor. The landlord didn't care and tried to evict us. It was very frightening. We could not afford a lawyer. We had to go to court ourselves with the help of our family. The landlord's attorney bullied us. The landlord wanted the Judge to evict us right away. Even when it was clear that my brother couldn't represent himself, our landlord demanded that the case go forward. The Judge gave us one week to find a lawyer. We had only a few days left when we contacted the Connecticut Fair Housing Center. The attorneys from the Center came to our home to meet with us. They agreed to help us. They stopped the eviction. They have gotten the landlord to let us have the assistance we need.

If it hadn't been for the Connecticut Fair Housing Center, Frank and I would have been thrown out of our home. We would have both ended up in nursing homes, or worse. Now, we can stay together in our own apartment.

My brother and I are very grateful for the Connecticut Fair Housing Center and for the help that the State provides so that the Connecticut Fair Housing Center can protect people like us.