Commonwealth of Massachusetts
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Mitt Romney, Governor ◆ Kerry Healey, Lt. Governor ◆ Jane Wallis Gumble, Director

Public Housing Notice 2003- 04

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Local Housing Authority Executive Directors
FROM: Carole E. Collins, Director of Housing Management
Stephanie Giancola, Risk Management Specialist
RE: **Tenant Swimming Pool, Swing Set and Trampoline Policy**
DATE: May 8, 2003

Now that Spring is upon us, the weather invites outdoor activities. This memo is being sent to address a common concern at many LHAs. It is DHCD's recommendation that housing authorities adopt a policy which prohibits tenants from having swimming pools, swing sets or trampolines at their state-aided housing units.

Ownership of swimming pools, swing sets and trampolines carry very special responsibilities regarding safety precautions, and as a result, they pose a high risk for general liability claims. Allowing tenants to use such personally owned equipment on the authority's property would place a housing authority in a very vulnerable position with respect to personal injury claims. Housing authorities routinely get sued for incidents even when a tenant is the responsible party. Allowing tenants to have swimming pools, swing sets or trampolines would only open another avenue of potential in this area with an unacceptable level of risk.

Please review your policies and take steps as may be necessary to bring them into conformance with this recommendation. If you have any questions on this issue, please contact Stephanie Giancola at 617-727-7130 x 624.