American law and the US Constitution apply to everyone in the US, irrespective of citizenship or immigration status, and even illegal immigrants have most of the same basic legal rights as US citizens. Under the US constitution, each state has the power to establish its own system of criminal and civil laws, resulting in 50 different state legal systems, each supported by its own laws, prisons, police forces, and county and city courts. There’s a wide variation in state and local laws, making life difficult for people moving between states. Never assume that the law is the same in different states... Senior citizens’ lives are affected by many federal, state and local laws and regulations. Many depend on the government for such things as housing, basic income and health care. Many find it confusing dealing with government agencies. They also publish a handbook, Medicare & You that may be obtained from the website or ordered by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (800)-633-4227. Food Stamps. Your local housing authority, the local office of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), can give you information about such projects, whether units are available and if you are eligible for them. Federal law gives certain rights to tenants and applicants for publicly supported housing in addition to the landlord-tenant rights available to all residential tenants.