

TESTIMONY OF ARTHUR GOMERSALL
MAY 7 HEARINGS

My name is Arthur Gomersall. I'm 80 years old and I live in Myerstown, Lebanon County. For the past eight years, I've lived in Tulpehocken Terrace, so I can be near the VA Hospital. Before my knees got bad I liked to garden; I had roses, mums and I grew potatoes. Now I just have a few things that I tend.

I recently almost lost my apartment at Tulpehocken Terrace. We had a change in management and people had lots of complaints about one of the caretakers who was bullying and threatening people. So the management decided to have a meeting to talk about the problems. During the meeting the caretaker told some of the people to "sit down and shut up." That was too much for me. I stood up and said "That is your problem, right there" and pointed to the caretaker. The caretaker threatened to take my head off.

Right after that the management gave me an eviction notice. I didn't have a lawyer and I went to court. I was lucky. The Magisterial District Justice's office sent me to MidPenn Legal Services, where I was given a lawyer. It is a good thing. The management did not want to negotiate; they wanted to have a long, drawn out battle. They put on eight witnesses and a long court hearing. I would not have known what to do if I was on my own. Thanks to the help of my lawyer, the court eventually ruled I didn't do anything wrong and could stay. The Judge said that I had done nothing wrong and that management had invited the discussion. The caretaker and I will never be friends but we have managed to get along.

Really, this caretaker was just a bully. He was yelling at old ladies and I almost lost my home because I tried to stop it. I feel that MidPenn Legal Services did a great job for me and I think they treated me with respect. I felt 100% better when I knew an attorney had taken my case. My attorney was wonderful and she handled the matter most professionally. I don't know

how to talk to a judge. I have made a cash donation to them every now and then when I can make that happen.