

David A. Paterson
Governor



Deborah VanAmerongen
Commissioner

New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal
Office of Rent Administration
Gertz Plaza
92-31 Union Hall Street
Jamaica, NY 11433

May 18, 2009

This is in response to your letter of January 8, 2009 regarding DHCR's policy on television antennas.

Specifically, you inquire "[i]f access to the building's master antenna has been part of the building's standard services, is the rent stabilized tenant or the landlord responsible for the cost to change to digital television . . . as required under Federal Law?"

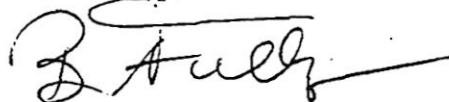
The owner will have to find a technological alternative or upgrade, such as a new, updated master antenna, that will enable affected tenants to continue to have television service. Tenants would be responsible to purchase, at their expense, analog-to-digital converter boxes for their televisions. The Federal Government has established a television converter box coupon program that can be accessed at www.dtv2009.gov.

Enclosed, please find a copy of a redacted opinion letter addressing the issue you raise.

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I trust that I have answered your questions as fully as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Falbo", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bruce Falbo
Bureau Chief
Rent Information Bureau

BF:JDL
LOG #COL-2517
Enclosure