

# Recognizing Discrimination

Housing discrimination is not always easy to recognize – and it may occur when you're least expecting. **The law applies** to landlords and sellers, as well as brokers, lenders, insurance agents, neighbors or others in the housing industry.



Discrimination must be because of a protected basis to rise to the level of being a violation of the law. Some examples of housing discrimination include:

- Applying different rules or rental amounts
- Falsely denying that housing is available
- Discriminatory advertising
- Intimidating or harassing tenants
- Refusing to make reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities
- Refusing to rent, sell or offer housing-related services
- Steering people to buy in certain sections of town
- Treating tenants differently when providing repairs or services

## Getting Help

Fair Housing Contact Service (FHCS) is a local, nonprofit, community-based organization that addresses issues of housing discrimination, tenant-landlord concerns, and provides housing counseling for home buyers and home owners. FHCS supports and encourages freedom of residence so that all persons can secure the housing they want, in the neighborhood of their choice.

We strive to prevent and eliminate housing discrimination by:

- Assisting clients in filing complaints
- Educating the public
- Investigating claims of discrimination
- Working with landlords and other housing providers so they understand their own rights and obligations

**If you are experiencing housing discrimination or would like more information about housing protections, please contact Fair Housing Contact Service.**



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# Housing Discrimination

**FAIR HOUSING CONTACT SERVICE, INC.**



Striving to prevent and eliminate housing discrimination and to promote equal housing opportunity.

# Because **everyone** deserves a place to call home.

Where you live is the foundation of your life. It could influence where your children go to school, as well as your access to healthy food choices, nearby healthcare facilities and leisure activities like parks and community events — just to name a few.

Regardless of race, color, religion, sex, disability, national origin or family status, you and your loved ones have a right to live where you want and to have a place you call home. However, housing discrimination is still widespread.

If you believe you are experiencing housing discrimination, take these steps to help protect you and your loved ones:

- Know your rights
- Learn how to recognize discrimination
- Get help from our housing advocates



## Understanding the Law



Fair Housing laws prohibit discrimination when it occurs **because of** specific characteristics.

There are different characteristics listed in our federal, state and local laws.



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[www.fairhousingakron.org](http://www.fairhousingakron.org)

Fair Housing Contact Service does not provide legal advice. We provide information and education. Nothing in this brochure is intended as legal advice. Please contact an attorney for assistance if you require legal advice.

This brochure is provided with assistance from The Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Federal Fair Housing Act, as amended, prohibits discrimination on the basis of:

- Race
- Color
- National Origin
- Religion
- Sex\*
- Disability\*\*
- Familial Status

Ohio state law also prohibits discrimination on the basis of:

- Ancestry
- Military Status

As well, local laws vary by municipality. Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity/Expression, Age, Marital Status, and Creed are protected classes covered in a variety of municipalities in our service area. Contact us to find out what protections are in place in your community.



\*Discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity/ expression could fall under sex-based discrimination, which is listed as part of the Fair Housing Act.

\*\*This is defined as (1) individuals with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity; (2) individuals who are regarded as having such impairment; and (3) individuals with a record of such impairment. Under fair housing laws, the definition of disability is very broad. Please contact us for more information.