

Recognizing Discrimination

Housing discrimination occurs when a person is treated differently due to their race, color, religion, sex, family status, disability, or national origin. **It is illegal.**

The fair housing laws apply to landlords, sellers, brokers, lenders, insurance agents, neighbors and other people in the housing industry.



However, discrimination is not always easy to recognize. Here are some examples of housing discrimination members of the LGBTQ+ community could face:

- A loan officer refuses to include both incomes of a same-sex couple applying for a home loan.
- A property manager steers an applicant to a specific unit because of their gender identity.
- A gay man is evicted because his landlord believes he will infect other tenants with HIV/AIDS.
- A transgender woman is asked by the owner of her apartment building not to dress in women's clothing in the common areas of the property.
- A property manager refuses to rent an apartment to a prospective tenant who is transgender.
- A landlord refuses to rent to a female prospective tenant because she wears masculine clothes and engages in other physical expressions that are stereotypically male.



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.

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



441 Wolf Ledges Parkway, Suite 200
Akron, Ohio 44311

Phone 330.376.6191
Toll Free 1.877.376.6191
Fax 330.376.8391

info@fairhousingakron.org

www.fairhousingakron.org

LGBTQ+ Housing Rights

FAIR HOUSING CONTACT SERVICE, INC.



HOME



Preventing and eliminating housing discrimination
and promoting equal housing opportunity.

LGBTQ+ Housing Rights

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 your gender identity/expression or sexual orientation, you and your loved ones have a right to live where you want to live and to have a place you call home. However, housing discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender LGBTQ+ persons is still widespread.

Fortunately, there are laws in place to help you. But they can be complicated and are ever-changing. Take these steps to help protect you and your loved ones:

- Learn how to recognize discrimination
- Know your rights
- Get help from people who know the law



Understanding the Laws



Federal Fair Housing Act

At the federal level, 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. Also, discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS and people perceived to have HIV/AIDS is also illegal under the act's prohibition of disability discrimination.



Preventing and eliminating housing discrimination
and promoting equal housing opportunity.

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.



HUD Equal Access Rule

In 2012, The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued a rule that ensures equal access to any HUD-related program regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status. Examples of HUD-related programs include subsidized housing, the Housing Choice Voucher program and an FHA mortgage.



Local protections

Sexual orientation and gender identity/expression are currently protected in the cities of Akron, Canton and Kent. More municipalities are adding protections regularly, so please check with Fair Housing Contact Service or your local municipality for updates.