

Fair housing is your right!



Fair housing is a right protected by federal and state laws. Fair housing means you may freely choose a place to live without regard to your race, color, religion, sex, national origin, military status, ancestry or because you are disabled or have children in your family.

Housing Discrimination is illegal!

Fair housing opens doors...But only with your help. Learn to recognize the signs of discrimination in rental, sales, lending, and insurance.

How do you recognize discrimination?

Housing discrimination is rarely blatant. It is usually disguised and more often than not is done with a smile and a handshake. Your fair housing rights are violated when you are prevented from doing the following because of you race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or family status:

- Viewing or renting an apartment.
- Viewing or purchasing a home.
- Applying for or securing a home loan.
- Purchasing homeowners or renters insurance.

Be suspicious when you hear statements like:

- "I rented that apartment after you called."
- "This building is for adults only."
- "I don't really want all those changes, a ramp, grab bars; that's too much."
- "We can't have mentally retarded people living here. Who will take care of them? It will make the neighbors uncomfortable."
- "Do you think you can afford this neighborhood?"
- "The owner just took the house off the market."
- "We just can't seem to get an appointment to show you the house."
- "There is a problem with the appraisal."
- "We have a minimum mortgage amount; we don't make loans under \$30,000."

FAIR HOUSING

Fair Housing for all is the law. It is unlawful to deny people the opportunity to live where they want and can afford. If you feel you are being treated unfairly, take the following steps:

1. Keep a record of any meetings and phone calls with the landlord, the property manager, real estate agent, loan officer or insurance agent. Include the person's name, title, the meeting date, and time.



2. Write down what happened and what each participant said. Save all receipts, applications, leases, business cards, brochures, or other documents that you were given.

CALL YOUR COMMUNITY FAIR HOUSING CONTACT PERSON.

IF YOU FEEL YOU HAVE BEEN TREATED UNFAIRLY, DO THE RIGHT THING CALL:

**City of Washington and Fayette County:
Julie Stepter (740) 335-0350**

City of Greenfield Danny Matthews (937) 961-7756

Highland County Rosalynd Newman or Stephanie Seeling (937) 393-1911

**OR YOU MAY CONTACT:
The Department of Housing and Urban Development
Fair Housing Hotline (800) 669-9777
TDD
(800) 927-9275**

**The Ohio Civil Rights Commission Columbus
Regional Office
(888) 278-7101**