

IF YOU FILE A COMPLAINT, YOU ARE PROTECTED BY THE LAW!

Housing discrimination occurs everyday. Much of it is never reported. To create change, we need to stand up for our rights.

- The Fair Housing Act gives you the legal right to file a complaint.
- It is illegal for anyone to threaten you with eviction or to harass you for filing a fair housing complaint against them,
- **THE FAIR HOUSING COUNCIL OF OREGON** will not share your information without your permission with anyone.



If you're not sure if you have been discriminated against, but you think something is wrong, give the **FHCO HOTLINE** a call—we'll help you figure out if you have experienced illegal housing discrimination. If it's a different problem, we can provide referrals to other resources.

STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS!

If you have questions or need assistance, call **FHCO**. We are a non-profit, non-governmental organization committed to ensuring your right to live free from housing discrimination. Our hotline services are free and confidential.

There are several ways to deal with discrimination. We can help you find the one that works best for you. We answer questions by phone (or by appointment), provide fair housing training and publish materials about your rights.

FAIR HOUSING COUNCIL OF OREGON
(800) 424-3247 x2
www.FHCO.org



DON'T LET HOUSING DISCRIMINATION SHUT YOU OUT



If you live in Oregon or SW Washington and think your civil right to fair housing has been violated, you have the right to do something about it!

WHO DO FAIR HOUSING LAWS PROTECT?

The Federal Fair Housing Act makes it illegal for landlords, managers, home owners, real estate agents, mortgage brokers, lenders, banks and others to discriminate against anyone on the basis of:

- Race
- Color
- National Origin & Ethnicity
- Religion
- Family Status
(*families with children under 18*)
- Physical or Mental Disability
- Sex & Gender



Oregon Law also includes:

Legal Sources of Income (except section 8), Domestic Violence Survivors, Marital Status, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

Washington Law also includes:

Military Status (honorably discharged vets.) Domestic Violence Survivors, Marital Status; Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

Some cities and counties also

include protection for:

Age and Type of Occupation

SOMETIMES ILLEGAL HOUSING DISCRIMINATION LOOKS LIKE THIS

- You are denied the opportunity to rent, buy or negotiate for housing.
- You are told the housing is not available, although it really is.
- You are directed to housing in a particular area, neighborhood or section of the complex instead of being allowed to make that choice yourself.
- Your reasonable request for a change in housing rules is turned down, even though the change is needed because of your disability.
- You are told that you can't rent an apartment because they don't accept government assistance such as TANF, SSI or DV Vouchers.
- You are turned down for a rental when the landlord finds out your sexual orientation.
- You have a disability and aren't allowed to install grab bars in your bathroom at your own expense.
- Your landlord finds out you are a survivor of domestic violence and evicts you.
- You are being harassed by your landlord or neighbor because of your gender identity.
- Your landlord won't accept same sex couples.
- You are singled out, denied services that others have, or are treated differently.
- A landlord or real estate agent advertises in a way that implies certain groups, such as families with children, students or undocumented workers, are not welcome.

DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT

If you are being unfairly evicted, harassed or refused housing, it will help if you do the following before calling **FHCO**:

- Keep a record of all documents—letters, receipts, contracts, voicemail messages and notices;
- Take pictures of the problem if possible;
- Get names and numbers of people Involved;
- Get details—date of the incident, costs, address where it happened;
- Talk to neighbors—Who else is experiencing this? Who saw it happen?



After the discrimination occurs, you have up to 1 year to file a complaint and up to 2 years to file a personal lawsuit, Even if you are not ready to file a complaint at this time, call **FHCO** to find out your rights.

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