

Fair Housing

Race, Color, National Origin and Ancestry

Housing Discrimination Against Protected Groups Is Illegal

Equal housing laws prohibit any kind of discrimination by those who sell or rent housing based on your race, color, national origin and ancestry.

This means that the landlord or real estate agent must be completely "blind" to a person's color. If an apartment or house is on the market, you have a right to see it. If you can afford it, you have the right to rent or buy it. After you rent or buy it, you have a right to live there, free from any discriminatory treatments.

Blatant or obvious discrimination is not acceptable

- Advertisements may not specify a racial or ethnic preference.
- The landlord or owner may not tell a non-white person that the apartment has been leased and then offer it to the next person who is white.
- The landlord or owner must have the same official rules regarding credit and require the same deposit, and have the same rules for all tenants, without regard to their race, the color of their skin, their national origin or their ancestry.

It is prohibited to create or manipulate with the intent to discriminate

- Landlords and owners may not create ethnic or racially segregated neighborhoods within their building or living complex, or make a determination on the location of your apartment based on the color of your skin, national origin or ancestry.
- Real estate agents may not treat you inferior, or show you houses only in neighborhoods where the residents are similar to you, with respect to skin color, national origin or ancestry.

Recognize Housing Discrimination

Suspect Discrimination When...

- You hear one version of the story on the phone and another in person.
- You have been told that the apartment or house was rented, but the "For Rent" sign is still up. Warning: Some apartment buildings always have "available" or "for rent" signs.
- Someone takes your application and promises to call your references and call you back...but your phone never rings.
- You are not allowed to leave a deposit.
- The manager or owner tries to convince you not to lease the housing.

If You Suspect Housing Discrimination Against Yourself Or Your Family, Please Contact:

Ohio Civil Rights Commission
1111 E. Broad St, Suite 301
Columbus, OH 43205-1379
614-466-5928 (voice/TTY)
1-888-278-7101

