

## IF YOU FILE A COMPLAINT, YOU ARE PROTECTED BY 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.

### FHCO

Will not share your information without your permission with anyone.

**If you are not sure if you have been discriminated against** but think something is wrong, call FHCO at **(800) 424-3247 x2**. We will help you figure out if you have experienced illegal housing discrimination. If it is 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. Call (800) 424-3247 x2. or email [information@fhco.org](mailto:information@fhco.org)

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 (800) 424-3247 x2 (or by appointment), provide fair housing training and publish materials about your rights.



(800) 424-3247 x2 [www.fhco.org](http://www.fhco.org)



The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported by funding under a grant with the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federal Government.

## DON'T LET HOUSING DISCRIMINATION SHUT YOU OUT

If you live in Oregon and think your civil right to fair housing has been violated

## DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT



## WHO DO FAIR HOUSING LAWS PROTECT?

The federal Fair Housing Act makes it illegal for landlords, home owners associations, real estate agents, mortgage brokers, lenders, insurance companies 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, Domestic Violence Survivors, Marital Status, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

It is illegal to discriminate because an income source is a public assistance program. This includes the Section 8/Housing Choice voucher program operated by local housing authorities and rent assistance from agencies.

### **Some cities and counties also include protection for:**

Age and Type of Occupation

## SOMETIMES ILLEGAL HOUSING DISCRIMINATION CAN LOOK 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 turned down for a rental because you have an arrest record.**
- **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 denied a rental because the gender on your ID is different than on your application.**
- **You are singled out, denied services that others have, or are treated differently.**
- **You are told you can't rent an apartment because they don't accept government assistance such as TANF, Section 8 (Housing Choice Vouchers) or rent assistance from social service agencies.**

## YOU CAN 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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