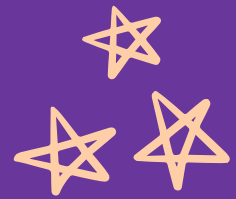


Fair Housing Protections for Families with Children



Fair housing law protects families with children from illegal housing discrimination.

What is the Fair Housing Act?

The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination based on protected class in the rental, sale, and financing of housing. The protected classes at the federal and state level are:

Federal

- Race
- Color
- National Origin
- Religion
- Sex
- Familial Status
- Disability

Oregon

- Sexual Orientation
- Gender Identity
- Source of Income
- Marital Status

Familial status as a protected class includes:

- Families with children under 18
- Pregnant persons
- Persons in the process of obtaining legal custody of minor children
- Persons with written permission to live with a minor child
- Foster parents, grandparents, and other guardians with minor children

Examples of familial status discrimination:

- Refusing to rent, sell, or negotiate with a family because the family has one or more children under 18 years of age.
- Telling a family no unit is available even though a unit is in fact available.
- Forcing families into housing units that are larger than necessary.
- Designating certain floors or buildings for families with children, or encouraging families with children to reside in particular areas.
- Charging additional rent, security deposit, or fees because a household has children under 18 years of age.
- Advertising a preference for households without children or otherwise discouraging such families.
- Overly restrictive policies or supervision rules directed at children or families with children

If a housing provider has said to you:

- “This neighborhood has a lot of retirees. You might be happier in an area with more kids.”
- “Adults preferred.”
- “Families with kids may only rent in buildings near the playground.”
- “We don’t rent to families with children.”
- “Each child must have their own bedroom.”
- “Families with kids must rent first floor units.”

... then you may be experiencing discrimination.



Report housing discrimination to the Fair Housing Council of Oregon at www.fhco.org