



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IS THE LAW!



Human Rights Commission
15941 Donald Curtis Drive, Suite 125
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TTY: 703-792-4677
Website: www.pwcgov.org/humanrights

DISCRIMINATION IS AGAINST THE LAW!



**DOORS
O
HOUSING**



**OPEN
T
FAIR**

Know Your *Fair Housing* Rights...

You need to know how you are protected and what to do if you believe you have been discriminated against. This brochure explains your housing rights and tells you how to file a complaint if your rights have been violated.

The Prince William County Human Rights Ordinance promotes and enforces local, state and federal fair housing throughout the County. The County's Human Rights Office investigates complaints on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, marital, familial status, gender identity, sexual orientation and source of income.

(These are called protected classes). Some examples of discrimination are:

- "No kids" policies
- Evicting people of color
- Discrimination against individuals who need support animals
- Discrimination against individuals in wheelchairs
- Discrimination against interracial couples and same sex couples
- Refusing to rent to you because of your age (too young or too old). Senior living communities are exempt from this policy.
- Gender discrimination
- Refusing to rent to individuals with AIDS
- Refusing to rent to mentally challenged individuals
- Refusing to rent to pregnant women



**HAVE YOU FACED
CLOSED DOORS?**

PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW

THE FAIR HOUSING ACTS

The Fair Housing Acts prohibits discrimination in housing because of:

- Race or Color
- National Origin
- Religion
- Sex
- Familial status (including children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians; pregnant woman and people securing custody of children under 18)
- Disability
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender Identity
- Marital Status
- Source of Income
- Status as a Veteran

WHAT HOUSING IS COVERED?

The Fair Housing Acts covers most housing. In some circumstances, the Acts exempts owner-occupied buildings with no more than four units, single-family housing sold or rented without the use of a broker and housing operated by organizations and private clubs that limit occupancy to members.

WHAT IS PROHIBITED?

In the Sale and Rental of Housing: No one may take any of the following actions based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin, gender identity, marital status, sexual orientation, and source of income.

- Refuse to rent or sell housing
- Refuse to negotiate for housing
- Make housing unavailable
- Otherwise deny a dwelling
- Set different terms, conditions or privileges for sale or rental of a dwelling
- Provide different housing services or facilities
- Falsely deny that housing is available for inspection, sale or rental
- For profit, persuade, or try to persuade homeowners to sell or rent dwellings by suggesting that people of a particular race, etc. have moved, or are about to move into the neighborhood (blockbusting) or
- Deny any person access to, membership or participation in, any organization, facility or service (such as a multiple listing service) related to the sale or rental of dwellings, or discriminate against any person in the terms or conditions of such access, membership or participation.

IF YOU THINK YOUR RIGHTS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED CALL OUR OFFICE AND GIVE US;

- Your name and address
- The name and address of the person you are complaining against (the respondent)
- The address or other identification of the housing involved
- violation (the event that caused you to believe your rights were violated)
The date(s) of the alleged violation.

Everyone has a right to fair housing. The right to live where you choose and to own a home with dignity without fear of discrimination.

In this County, the Human Rights Commission enforces:

- The *Federal Fair Housing Act*
- The *Virginia Fair Housing Act*
- The *Human Rights Ordinance* (Chapter 10.1).

If you feel you have been discriminated against, please contact the Human Rights Office .

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