

OUR MISSION: TO PROTECT & EXPAND FAIR HOUSING RIGHTS, ELIMINATE HOUSING DISCRIMINATION & PROMOTE INTEGRATED COMMUNITIES

Since 1983, the Fair Housing Center has promoted equal access to housing and diverse communities for residents of Northeast Ohio with:

RESEARCH

- Analyses of Impediments to Fair Housing
- Community Lending Factbooks
- Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Ohio Mortgage Lending
- Consumer Manual
- Obtaining and Maintaining Housing for People with Mental Health Disabilities
- Landlord Training Manuals, and
- The State of Fair Housing in Northeast Ohio

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- Trainings for housing professionals
- Programs for housing buyers and renters in English and Spanish
- Outreach teams for tabling and community events
- Speakers available for presentations
- Brochures in English, Spanish, Korean, and Arabic

ENFORCEMENT

- Monitor rental, sales, homeowners insurance, and lending markets for discriminatory practices

ADVOCACY

- Propose and enforce effective fair housing laws
- Facilitate the Greater Cleveland Fair Housing Collaborative
- Collaborate with national, state, and local organizations
- Provide assistance to victims of housing discrimination



**Fair Housing Center
for Rights & Research**

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FAIR HOUSING

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!



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Housing discrimination continues in Northeast Ohio. People often don't report it because they don't know that fair housing is a civil right and that there is help available.

WHAT CLASSES ARE PROTECTED?

- Race/Color
- National Origin/Ancestry
- Sex (includes sexual orientation and gender identity)
- Disability
- Religion
- Familial Status (the presence of children under the age of 18)
- Military Status

Some local laws also prohibit housing discrimination based on:

- Marital Status
- Creed
- Age
- Source of Income

POSSIBLE SIGNS OF DISCRIMINATION

Comments like these can be signs of housing discrimination:

- "Families with children can only live in the back of the complex."
- "I will have to charge you a pet deposit for your service dog."
- "You don't want to live in that neighborhood."
- "We only rent to people who speak English."

WHAT IS PROHIBITED?

These actions are illegal if they are done because a person belongs to a protected class:

Rental and Sale of Housing

- Refuse to rent or sell housing
- Refuse to negotiate for housing
- Make housing unavailable or otherwise restrict choice
- Set different terms, conditions or privileges for sale or rental of housing
- Provide different housing services or facilities
- Falsely deny that housing is available
- Persuade owners to sell or rent (blockbusting)
- Deny anyone access to or membership in a facility or service related to the sale or rental of housing
- Retaliate against a person for making a fair housing complaint.

Mortgage Lending and Insurance

- Refuse to make a mortgage loan or provide homeowners insurance
- Refuse to provide information regarding loans or insurance
- Impose different terms or conditions on a loan, such as different rates, or fees
- Discriminate in appraising property
- Refuse to purchase a loan
- Set different terms or conditions to purchase a loan

It is also illegal for anyone to:

- Threaten, coerce, intimidate, or interfere with anyone exercising a fair housing right or assisting others who exercise that right.
- Advertise or make any statement that indicates a limitation or preference based on a protected class, such as:
 - "No Children"
 - "Christians Only" or
 - "Prefer single female"



WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

If you think you have been a victim of housing discrimination because of your race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability, military status, ancestry, or any other reason, **please contact the Fair Housing Center for assistance at 216-361-9240.**

You can also contact the Ohio Civil Rights Commission at 1-888-278-7101 or online at www.crc.ohio.gov, or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at 1-800-669-9777 or online at www.hud.gov.

For the hearing impaired, call 1-800-927-9275. HUD also offers assistance with reading and completing HUD forms through interpreters, tapes, and Braille materials.



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