

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

Since 1983, The Fair Housing Center has promoted nondiscrimination in housing and integrated communities for residents of Northeast Ohio through:

RESEARCH

- Fair Housing Impediments Studies
- The State of Fair Housing in Northeast Ohio Annual Report
- Community Lending Factbooks
- Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Ohio Mortgage Lending
- Other Current Fair Housing Topics

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- Trainings for housing providers, consumers, real estate professionals and municipalities
- Outreach at community events
- Speakers available for presentations
- Fair Housing brochures on a variety of topics in English, Spanish, Traditional and Simplified Chinese, and Arabic
- Facilitate the Northeast Ohio Fair Housing Collaborative

ENFORCEMENT

- Monitor rental, sales, homeowner's insurance, and lending markets for discriminatory practices
- Offer support filing complaints with HUD, the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, or local enforcement agencies

ADVOCACY

- Support residents in understanding and exercising their fair housing rights
- Individualized assistance with accommodation and modification requests
- Investigate reports of housing discrimination
- Promote and enforce effective fair housing laws



**Fair Housing Center
for Rights & Research**

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FAIR HOUSING

NATIONAL ORIGIN & ANCESTRY



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Does my immigration status affect whether I am protected by the Fair Housing Act?

No. Every person in the United States is covered by the Fair Housing Act. Federal and state laws prohibit discrimination in housing based on:

- Race/Color
- National Origin/Ancestry
- Sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity)
- Disability
- Religion
- Family Status
- Military Status

Housing discrimination based on national origin, or any other protected characteristic is illegal, regardless of immigration status.

Examples of housing discrimination:

- A landlord refuses to rent to a person based on their religion.
- A landlord requires additional identification documents from a person based on their national origin.
- A landlord will not rent to a family with children.

What is National Origin Discrimination?

National origin discrimination is when a person is denied housing or offered different terms based their birthplace, culture, or language. Ohio law also protects people based on ancestry.

A person cannot be denied housing opportunities based on:

- Being from or having family from another country.
- Having a name or accent associated with a national origin group.
- Participation in certain customs associated with a national origin group.
- Being married to or associated with people of a certain national origin.

Examples of housing discrimination based on national origin or ancestry:

- A housing provider will not rent to someone who speaks a language other than English.
- A housing provider charges a higher security deposit or rent to a tenant because they or members of their family were born in another country.
- A realtor only shows a homebuyer housing in certain neighborhoods based on customs associated with homebuyer's national origin/ancestry.

Can landlords ask for immigration documents?

Landlords are able to ask for identification documents and perform credit checks in order to financially qualify a person for housing. However, a landlord should follow the same procedure for all potential tenants. Requiring applicants to provide proof of citizenship or only asking applicants who speak with an accent to provide verification of lawful residency in the U.S. may violate fair housing laws.

What if a landlord or neighbor is threatening to report me, a family member, or friends to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)?

It is illegal to coerce, intimidate, threaten, or interfere with a person exercising their fair housing rights. This includes threatening to report a person to ICE for filing a fair housing complaint. HUD does not inquire about immigration status when investigating fair housing complaints. If ICE becomes involved after a complaint is filed, inform them that you are pursuing a housing discrimination complaint with HUD.

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 (TTY: 1-800-927-9275) or online at www.hud.gov. HUD also offers assistance with reading and completing HUD forms through interpreters, tapes, and Braille materials.



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