

HOUSING DISCRIMINATION RESOURCE SHEET



The Federal Fair Housing Act

The Fair Housing Act protects people from discrimination when they are renting or buying a home, getting a mortgage, seeking housing assistance, or engaging in other housing-related activities. Learn more here:

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/fair_housing_act_overview

The California Fair Employment and Housing Act

The State of California has its own, more restrictive law for fair housing. Learn more here:

<https://calcivilrights.ca.gov/housing/#whoBody>

Dispute Resolution & Mediation Services

Project Sentinel, Tel. (800-339-6043),
email: info@housing.org
<https://www.housing.org>

What is Protected in CA?

Protected characteristics include:

- Race
- Color
- Ancestry
- National origin
- Citizenship
- Immigration status
- Primary language
- Religion
- Disability (mental or physical)
- Sex and gender
- Sexual orientation
- Gender Identity
- Gender Expression
- Genetic information
- Marital status
- Familial status (families with children under 18 or people who are pregnant)
- Source of income (including the use of government rental assistance such as a Section 8 Housing Choice voucher)
- Military or veteran status
- Age

CONTACT THE CITY'S HOUSING COORDINATOR

(650) 286-3230

njabba@fostercity.org

Nori Jabba, Housing Coordinator

www.fostercity.org/housing

What Does Discrimination Look Like?

Examples of Discrimination if the Decision is Based on a Protected Characteristic

- Refusal to sell, rent, or lease rooms, apartments, mobile homes, condos, or houses.
- Refusal to negotiate for the sale, rental, or lease of housing.
- Informing someone that an apartment is not available for inspection, sale, or rental when it is in fact available.
- Denial of a home loan or homeowner's insurance.
- Cancellation or termination of a sale or rental agreement.
- Refusal to permit, at a disabled tenant's expense, reasonable modifications – such as adding a ramp, widening a doorway, or installing a safety bar in a shower – when necessary to accommodate a disability.
- Refusal to make reasonable accommodations in housing rules, policies, practices, or services where necessary to provide a disabled person equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling.
- Rules that restrict only on families with children, such as a prohibition against children using an on-site pool or playing in common areas of an apartment complex.
- Refusing to rent to a tenant with a section 8 voucher.
- Not complying with the requirements of a rental assistance or subsidy program (such as section 8) by refusing to complete required forms, sign documents, or allow inspections
- Refusing to rent to anyone with a criminal history.
- Screening prospective tenants – including when done by a third-party such as a tenant screening company – in a way that discriminates based on a protected characteristic.
- Retaliation against someone because they filed a complaint with CRD, requested a reasonable accommodation for a disability, or otherwise tried to protect their rights to be free from housing discrimination.

Source: <https://calcivilrights.ca.gov/housing/#whoBody>

Get Help



**Civil Rights
Department**
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Call the Communication Center at 800-884-1684 (voice), 800-700-2320 (TTY)
or California's Relay Service at 711

Email contact.center@calcivilrights.ca.gov and they will respond within 3-5 business days.

Email accommodations@calcivilrights.ca.gov or call 844-541-2877 for disability accommodations.

Learn about the complaint process and file a complaint online at:

<https://calcivilrights.ca.gov/complaintprocess/?content=fileComplaint#fileComplaintBody>