

KNOW YOUR FAIR HOUSING RIGHTS

Everyone is entitled to equal access to housing by laws of the Federal government, the State of Maryland, and many cities and counties. The federal Fair Housing Act prohibits housing discrimination based on the following characteristics:

- Race
- Color
- Religion
- Sex (including Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity (LGBTQ+))
- National Origin (country of origin or ancestry)
- Disability (a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits an individual's major life activity or bodily function, being regarded as having such an impairment, or having a record of such an impairment)
- Familial Status (parent(s) or guardian(s) living with a child or children under age 18 or being pregnant)

Maryland State Law prohibits housing discrimination based on **source of income**, meaning that it is illegal to deny a rental applicant or otherwise discriminate against a tenant because they are a recipient of housing assistance.



DO YOU THINK YOU MAY BE A VICTIM OF HOUSING DISCRIMINATION AND LOOKING FOR HELP?

US Department of Housing and Urban Development

Fair Housing Equal Opportunities Office
www.hud.gov/fairhousing/fileacomplaint (800) 669-9777

Baltimore Field Office
100 S. Charles Street, 5th Floor Baltimore MD 21201
www.hud.gov/states/maryland (410) 962-2520

Fair Housing Equal Opportunity Office (Region 3 - Mid Atlantic)
www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/contact_fheo#region3
ComplaintsOffice03@hud.gov (215) 861-7646

Maryland State Resources

Maryland Commission on Civil Rights
6 St. Paul St, Baltimore, MD 21202
<https://mccr.maryland.gov/pages/intake.aspx>
mccr@maryland.gov. (410) 767-8600

MD Attorney General Civil Rights Division
www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/CivilRights/default.aspx
civilrights@oag.state.md.us (410) 576-6300

Nonprofit Resources

Public Justice Center
www.publicjustice.org/en/legal_help/housing (410) 625-9409

MD Legal Aid
www.mdlab.org/get-help-services/ (888) 465-2468

County Specific Resources

Anne Arundel County Office of Equity and Human Rights
www.aacounty.org/county-executive/oehr/discriminationharassment-complaint
oehr@aacounty.org (410) 222-1550

Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil Rights
civilrights.baltimorecity.gov/file-complaint-draft
CivilRights@baltimorecity.gov (410) 396-3141

Baltimore County Fair Housing.
www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/housing/fair-housing/law
dskinner@baltimorecountymd.gov (410) 887-6064

Harford County Housing and Community Services
www.harfordcountymd.gov/269/Fair-Housing
housing@harfordcountymd.gov (410) 638-3045

Howard County Office of Human Rights and Equity
www.howardcountymd.gov/human-rights-equity/how-file-discrimination-complaint-case-processing-services
ohre@howardcountymd.gov (410) 313-6430

LEARN MORE ABOUT FAIR HOUSING LAWS

[Fair Housing Rights and Obligations, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)

[Housing Discrimination, Maryland Commission on Civil Rights](#)

Refuses to make reasonable accommodations for you if you are disabled, like allowing a service animal in a complex that does not allow pets

Refuses to rent to you because you are a single person, pregnant or have children

Evicts you because of rejected sexual advances

Claims they cannot accept vouchers because they are not approved for Section 8 or have not passed Section 8 requirements

Requests information about your sexual orientation or identity

Refuses to accept Federal, state, or local government assistance including, but not limited to, Section 8/ Housing Choice Vouchers

YOU MAY BE A VICTIM OF HOUSING DISCRIMINATION IF A HOUSING PROVIDER:

Attempts to steer you into or away from neighborhoods or apartment complexes due to your protected characteristic, like saying "You might be more comfortable in a neighborhood with more Spanish speakers"

Uses notices or advertisements indicating a preference or discriminatory limitation for tenants like "Adults Only"

Says that a dwelling is not available for inspection, sale, or rent when, in fact, it is available

Requests information about your religious beliefs or practices

Attempts to charge you higher fees because of your family size

Your application is denied without justification after the rental provider meets you in person when they had been eager to rent in earlier phone/email communications