

We Conduct Business in Accordance with the Federal Fair Housing Law
(The Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988)

It is illegal to discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, national origin, marital status, or sexual orientation.

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In addition to these protected classes, Pennsylvania offers legal protection based on ancestry, age (40 and older), use of guide or support animal, and status as handler or trainer of guide or support animals.

- In the sale or rental of housing or residential lots
- In advertising the sale or rental of housing
- In the financing of housing
- In the provision of real estate brokerage services
- In the appraisal of housing
- Blockbusting is also illegal

Anyone who feels he or she has been discriminated against may file a complaint of housing discrimination:



US Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity
Washington, D.C. 20410
1-800-669-9777 (Toll Free)

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**Landlord and
Property Manager's**

**GUIDE TO
FAIR HOUSING**

Laws and Practices



**OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

20 Russell Boulevard
Bradford, PA 16701
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Equal Housing Opportunity



THE FAIR HOUSING ACT



The Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 prohibits discrimination in housing based on:

- Race or Color
- Religion
- Sex
- Disability
- Familial Status
- National Origin

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the following are also protected classes:

- Ancestry
- Age (40 and older)
- Use of guide or support animal
- Status as handler or trainer of guide or support animal.

WHAT HOUSING IS COVERED?

The Fair Housing Act covers most housing. Under some circumstances, the Act 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, rental or financing of housing, no one may take any of the following actions based on race, color, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, marital status, or sexual orientation of the person seeking housing:

- Refuse to rent or sell available housing
- Advertise or make any statement that indicates a limitation or preference based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin. The prohibition against

discriminatory advertising applies to single family and owner-occupied housing that is otherwise exempt from the Fair Housing Act.

- Falsely state that housing is not available for inspection, sale, or rental.
- Set different terms, conditions, or privileges for sale or rental of a dwelling.
- Provide different housing services or facilities
- For profit, persuade owners to sell or rent (Blockbusting).

AGE OR FAMILIAL STATUS

Unless a building or community qualifies as housing for older persons, it may not discriminate against families in which one or more children under the age of 18 years of age live with:

- A parent
- A parent who has legal custody of the child(ren)
- A person designated by the parent or legal custodian of the child(ren)
- Familial status protection also applies to pregnant women and anyone securing legal custody of a child under 18 years of age.



PROTECTION FOR THE DISABLED

If tenant or member of their household:

- Has a physical or mental disability that greatly limits one or more major life activities
- Has a record of such disability or
- Is regarded as having such a disability.

A Landlord May Not...

Refuse to let the tenant make reasonable modifications to the dwelling or common use areas, at the tenant's expense, if necessary for the handicapped person to use the housing.

Refuse to make reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices, or services, if necessary, for the handicapped person to use the housing.



Fair Housing Do's and Don'ts

DON'T...

- Ask legal questions about an applicant's marital status, religious practices, or sexual orientation
- Advertise indicating a preference for a specific age, religion, race, etc.
- Set different fees, charges or security deposit amounts for different tenants in similar units.
- Steer applicants to other landlords or neighborhoods.

DO...

- Treat each applicant equally. Be consistent in the information you request and the application approval process.
- Use a printed application form to ask for financial information, names, and ages of household members, previous rental references, or credit references.
- Document contacts with applicants and tenants in writing.
- Keep a written copy of your policies and procedures on applications and occupancy.
- Educate and train people working for you about Fair Housing laws and practices.
- Display the Equal Housing Opportunity logo in advertising and in your place of business.