

FAIR HOUSING

Fair housing means a landlord should not discriminate based on a protected class while renting. If your landlord owns 4+ units or uses a real estate broker, you're likely covered. Federal and state fair housing laws ban discrimination based on these categories:

RACE, COLOR, ETHNICITY, & NATIONAL ORIGIN:



“Management said they wouldn't send anyone to my unit to make repairs because I'm black.”

“She won't rent to me because I am Asian.”

DISABILITY*



“I asked to transfer to a ground floor unit since I'm unable to use the stairs and was given a notice of lease termination.”

“My landlord is terminating my lease because I've been asking for modifications to my unit that will accommodate my disability.”

“I asked to have my doorway widened and received a notice of non-renewal.”

SEX



“My landlord refused to rent me a room that I know is vacant and later offered it to a tenant that's a man.”

“He only 'checks in' to inspect the apartments of female tenants.”

FAMILIAL STATUS:



“The neighbors complain about how loud my kids are all day, now that there's no school or summer camp, and my landlord wants me to move or transfer.”

A local ordinance might add other categories of protection like age, student status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, & veteran status.

THESE ARE JUST SOME EXAMPLES OF ILLEGAL DISCRIMINATION. CALL HUD OR A FAIR HOUSING OFFICE TO MAKE A COMPLAINT. CALL TRLA AT (888) 988-9996 OR YOUR LOCAL TENANTS' COUNCIL FOR ADVICE OR HELP FILING A COMPLAINT. YOU HAVE ONE YEAR TO FILE THE COMPLAINT.

If a person has a disability, they can also ask for a reasonable accommodation. This is a change to a policy or procedure that your landlord makes. For more information & a template request form, see our booklet at bastaustin.org/reasonable-accommodations-fair-housing