



Discrimination in Housing

While many view the federal Fair Housing Act as a civil rights law, directed at preventing racial discrimination, in fact the federal Fair Housing Act prevents discrimination based on a number of consumer characteristics.

The North Carolina Fair Housing Act makes it illegal to discriminate in housing because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, physical or mental handicaps, or family status (families with children). The law applies to the sale, rental and financing of residential housing. Apartments, houses, mobile homes and even vacant lots to be used for housing are covered by the Fair Housing Act. With a few exceptions, anyone who has control over residential property and real estate financing must obey the law. This includes rental managers, property owners,

What is Prohibited ?

In the sale or rental of housing, no one may take any of the following actions based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, family status, or handicap (disability):

- Refuse to rent or sell housing
- Refuse to negotiate for housing
- Make housing unavailable
- Deny a dwelling
- Set different terms, conditions, or privileges for sale or rental of a dwelling
- Falsely deny that housing is available for inspection, sale or rental

In addition, it is against the law to:

- Advertise or make any statement that indicates a limitation or preference based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, family status, or handicap (disability).
- Threaten, coerce, intimidate or interfere with anyone exercising a fair housing right or assisting others who exercise that right.



What Groups are Protected?

- Racial and ethnic minority groups
- Religious minority groups
- People with disabilities
- Families with children
- Families or people receiving public assistance or a housing subsidy
- Women
- Immigrants
- Older people



For more information about Affordable Housing in Buncombe County, please contact:
Department of Planning and Development



Fair Housing Complaint Procedure



Any person or persons wishing to file a complaint of housing discrimination in the City may do so by informing the County or any of the entities listed below of the facts and circumstance of the alleged discriminatory acts or practice.

Upon receiving a housing discrimination complaint, the County shall acknowledge the complaint within 10 days in writing and inform the North Carolina Human Relations Commission about the complaint.

A Buncombe County Planning and Development staff member shall offer assistance to the commission through in the investigation and reconciliation of all housing discrimination complaints which are based on events occurring in the County.

Where to Get Help and What to Do If You Are Discriminated Against

If you feel you have been discriminated against you can:

1. Contact the Buncombe County Planning and Development office at 46 Valley Street Asheville, NC 28801, (828) 250-4830. A Planning department staff member will assist you with filing a complaint to the North Carolina Human Relations Commission.
2. Contact and/or file a complaint with the North Carolina Human Relations Commission, 1318 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1318, or telephone the Commission at 919-733-7996.
3. Contact Pisgah Legal Services at 1-800-489-6144.
4. Contact the North Carolina Fair Housing Center at 919-667-0888.
5. Contact HUD – file complaint online. <https://portal.hud.gov/FHEO903/Form903/Form903Start.action>

