

OUR MISSION: TO PROTECT & EXPAND FAIR HOUSING RIGHTS, ELIMINATE HOUSING DISCRIMINATION & PROMOTE INTEGRATED COMMUNITIES

Since 1983, the Fair Housing Center has promoted equal access to housing and diverse communities for residents of Northeast Ohio with:

RESEARCH

- Fair Housing Impediments Studies
- The State of Fair Housing in Northeast Ohio Annual Report
- Community Lending Factbooks
- Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Ohio Mortgage Lending
- Other Current Fair Housing Topics

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- Trainings for housing providers, consumers, real estate professionals and municipalities
- Outreach at community events
- Speakers available for presentations
- Fair Housing brochures on a variety of topics in English, Spanish, Traditional and Simplified Chinese, and Arabic
- Facilitate the Northeast Ohio Fair Housing Collaborative

ENFORCEMENT

- Monitor rental, sales, homeowner's insurance, and lending markets for discriminatory practices
- Support filing complaints with HUD, the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, or local enforcement agencies

ADVOCACY

- Support residents in understanding and exercising their fair housing rights
- Individualized assistance with accommodation and modification requests
- Investigate reports of housing discrimination
- Promote and enforce effective fair housing laws



**Fair Housing Center
for Rights & Research**

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FAIR HOUSING

**FOR THE LGBTQ+
COMMUNITY**



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HOUSING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY IS ILLEGAL.

In 2021, sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination were officially recognized as forms of sex discrimination under the federal Fair Housing Act. This means that discrimination in housing due to a person's sexual orientation and/or gender identity is illegal across the entire United States. Housing providers are prohibited from:

Rental and Sale of Housing

- Refusing to rent or sell housing
- Refusing to negotiate for housing
- Making housing unavailable or otherwise restricting choice
- Setting different terms, conditions or privileges for sale or rental of housing
- Providing different housing services or facilities
- Falsely denying that housing is available
- Persuading owners to sell or rent (blockbusting)
- Denying anyone access to or membership in a facility or service related to the sale or rental of housing
- Retaliating against a person for making a fair housing complaint.

Mortgage Lending and Insurance

- Refusing to make a mortgage loan or provide homeowners insurance
- Refusing to provide information regarding loans or insurance
- Imposing different terms or conditions on a loan, such as different rates, or fees
- Discriminating in appraising property
- Refusing to purchase a loan
- Setting different terms or conditions purchase a loan

It is also illegal for anyone to:

- Threaten, coerce, intimidate, or interfere with anyone exercising a fair housing right or assisting others who exercise that right.
- Advertise or make any statement that indicates a limitation or preference based on a protected class.



EXAMPLES OF DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY:

- Threatening a transgender person in transition with eviction if they dress or present in gender-affirming ways.
- Ignoring or failing to stop harassment or intimidation of LGBTQ residents by their neighbors based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Denying housing in a rooming house to a person because they believe they are gay.
- Refusing to rent an apartment to a couple once they learn that they are in a same-sex relationship.
- Telling a resident that they cannot use the locker room corresponding with their gender identity at an apartment complex's fitness center.
- Intentionally outing or misgendering a resident or refusing to honor their chosen name or pronouns.

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

If you think you have been a victim of housing discrimination because of your race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability, military status, ancestry, or any other reason, **please contact the Fair Housing Center for assistance at 216-361-9240.**

You can also contact the Ohio Civil Rights Commission at 1-888-278-7101 or online at www.crc.ohio.gov, or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at 1-800-669-9777 or online at www.hud.gov.

For the hearing impaired, call 1-800-927-9275. HUD also offers assistance with reading and completing HUD forms through interpreters, tapes, and Braille materials.



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