

Disability & Fair Housing

Know Your Rights

What is Fair Housing?

Fair Housing means that you have the right to live where you choose without fear of discrimination based on your personal characteristics. The fair housing laws protect you from being treated differently based on your:

Race/Color	Marital Status
Religion	Ancestry
Gender	Age
National Origin	Income Source
Familial Status	Gender Expression/Identity
Disability	Genetic Information
Sexual Orientation	Other Arbitrary Basis

Disability Discrimination

Disability discrimination is defined as unfair treatment by a landlord or manager because an individual has a disability. The Fair Housing Act requires housing providers to make reasonable accommodations or modifications for people with disabilities in order to allow them to fully use and enjoy their housing.

Why should I report discrimination?

Discrimination is illegal. Reporting discrimination is the first step to stopping it in your community.

Who should I call to report discrimination?

The Housing Rights Center is under contract with your city to investigate reports of housing discrimination, and provide victims of discrimination with information about their rights, responsibilities, and legal options.

Contact the Housing Rights Center

Toll Free: (800) 477-5977

TTY (Hearing Impaired): (213) 201-0867

Email: info@housingrightscenter.org

Website: www.housingrightscenter.org

Reasonable Accommodations

A **reasonable accommodation** is a change to a house rule, policy, or practice that may be necessary to allow a person with a disability equal opportunity to use and enjoy their housing. This can include waiving a "no-pet" policy for a disabled tenant who must live with a service animal.



Common Reasonable Accommodation Requests

- Allowing a service or support animal in a building with a "no-pet" policy.
- Approving a live-in caregiver.
- Breaking a lease early or extending it past the move-out date.

Reasonable Modifications

A **reasonable modification** is a physical change made to a unit or common area that improves the ability of a person with a disability to use and enjoy their housing. This can include installing a wheelchair ramp or grab bars. In most cases, a tenant is responsible for paying for a reasonable modification.

How Should I Request an Accommodation or Modification?

In Writing — It is best to make your request in writing, if possible, and provide your landlord with a date within which to respond to your request.

With Support — Include a letter from a doctor, therapist, or social worker confirming your disability and your need for the accommodation or modification. The letter doesn't have to disclose what your disability is, it just has to confirm that you have a disability.

Contact HRC — We can request a reasonable accommodation or modification on your behalf for free.