

Families & 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

What is Familial Status Discrimination?

"Familial status discrimination" is defined as unfair treatment by a landlord or manager because an individual has children. Also protected under "familial status" is any person who is pregnant, or in the process of securing legal custody of any individual who is under the age of 18.

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

Refusing to Rent to Families with Children

It is illegal for a property manager or owner to refuse to rent to a family with children, or to steer tenants with children away from living in certain buildings, units, or floors due to concerns over noise or safety.



Forms of Familial Status Discrimination...

- Charging families with children a higher security deposit or rental amount.
- Harassing tenants with children.
- Enforcing restrictive occupancy limits, such as only allowing one person per bedroom.

House Rules for Children

It is illegal for a manager or owner to have rules that prohibit children from playing outside, or to enforce curfews or policies against families only. Not allowing children to be in common areas or limiting its use, can be a form of familial status discrimination.

Illegal Advertisements

It is illegal to state or suggest a preference for tenants without children in rental listings. Statements such as "NO CHILDREN" or "ADULTS PREFERRED" are illegal. If you see an illegal advertisement or sign, report it to the Housing Rights Center. We can investigate the matter further to determine if there's a fair housing violation.

Senior Housing Exemption

In most cases, senior housing is exempt from the familial status protection. This means that senior buildings can legally refuse to rent to families with children due to age requirements. Some restrictions apply.