

Housing Discrimination Based on Race, Color and National Origin is ILLEGAL

Housing Discrimination Laws

Federal Fair Housing laws prohibit housing discrimination based on race, color, national origin, disability, familial status (the presence of minor children), religion, and sex/gender (including sexual orientation and gender identity). California laws add protections based on marital status, source of income, immigration status, citizenship, or other arbitrary characteristics such as age. These laws apply to prospective renters as well as current tenants.

Protections Against Discrimination Based on Race or Color

A housing provider cannot refuse to rent, lie about housing availability, provide inferior conditions or services or harass tenants, prospective tenants, occupants or prospective occupants based upon race or color.

Protections Against Discrimination Based on National Origin

A housing provider cannot refuse to rent to people because of their national origin. A landlord may not ask a tenant, prospective tenant, occupant or prospective occupant about immigration or citizenship status and may not require that any such person make any statement, representation, or certification concerning his/her immigration or citizenship status.

Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California



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Wheelchair accessible
Se habla español

Our Mission

To ensure equal housing opportunity and educate the community on the value of diversity in our neighborhoods.

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FAIR HOUSING PROTECTIONS AGAINST RACE, COLOR AND NATIONAL ORIGIN DISCRIMINATION



FAIR HOUSING ADVOCATES OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

www.fairhousingnorcal.org



Prohibited Activities Based on Race and Color

Examples of practices that may be illegal:

- Refusing to rent or providing false information about availability based upon applicant's race or color.
- Steering a Black renter to neighborhoods or complexes where they "might fit better".
- Refusing to rent to a Black applicant with a criminal record, regardless of how long ago the crime occurred, or the nature of the offense. In fact, having a blanket "no criminal history" rental policy will disproportionately affect Black and Latinx renters (since the criminal justice system disproportionately affects Black and Latinx individuals), so may therefore be discriminatory.
- Making repairs or providing other services only for white tenants.
- Restricting the ability of guests to visit based on race/color.
- Requiring Black applicants to have higher incomes in order to qualify for a rental.
- Making discriminatory statements or harassing tenants based on race/color.

Signs of Possible Discrimination

Have you heard any of the following or experienced similar treatment?

- The story you are told in person is different from the information given over the phone.
- The housing provider says, "It is rented" but the rental listing continues to appear online.
- You are told, "You wouldn't like it here; why don't you try another apartment complex where you might feel more comfortable?"
- Despite verifying your identity and financial qualifications, you are told you must have a valid Social Security number or a green card.
- You are harassed by your housing provider or neighbors because of your race/color or national origin.
- Your requests for repairs are ignored, but the requests of your white neighbors are not.
- You are harassed because you have Black or Latinx visitors.
- You are Black or Latinx and are told, "We can't rent to you because your records show a criminal offense from 10 years ago" while the manager makes an exception for a white applicant with a record.
- You are told, "We don't allow more than 3 people in a two-bedroom unit" and you believe the real reason is your race, color or national origin.

The statements above could be considered discriminatory. Be aware of blatant or subtle signs of housing discrimination. Contact us if you suspect unfair or differential treatment.



Prohibited Activities Based on National Origin

Examples of practices that may be illegal:

- Refusing to rent or provide false information about availability based on nationality or ethnic background.
- Requesting Social Security numbers only of tenants from certain national origins.
- Requiring U.S.-based forms of identification.
- Inquiring about immigration status or requiring a green card.
- Steering persons with certain ethnic backgrounds to neighborhoods or complexes where they "might fit better".
- Making repairs only for tenants from certain ethnic backgrounds.
- Enforcing rules and regulations for some tenants and not for others.
- Making discriminatory statements or harassing tenants based on their national origin.

If you suspect discrimination, contact us at (415) 457-5025 / TDD: (800) 735-2922 or visit our website at www.fairhousingnorcal.org.