

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM DISCRIMINATED AGAINST?

As soon as you feel, think, or believe that you feel that housing discrimination happened, go home and **make notes** about:

- √ What happened, what was said
- √ Where it happened
- √ When it happened – date, time and place
- √ Name, address, and phone number of the landlord and/or manager
- √ Names, addresses, and phone numbers of any witnesses who saw or heard what happened, including anyone you talked to about the unfair treatment

Keep records such as:

- √ **Newspaper Ads**
- √ **Apartment Rules**
- √ **Warning Notices**
- √ **Eviction Notices**
- √ **Rent and Deposit Receipts**
- √ **Copy of Lease**
- √ **Repair Request**
- √ **Inspection Notices**



Where to File a Complaint if Your Rights Have Been Violated:

The Fair Housing Programs
of Steubenville, Toronto & Jefferson County
Ohio Valley Fair Housing Center
115 South 3rd Street, Suite 108
Steubenville, OH 43952
(740) 283-6000 extension 1700

Fair Housing Hub
U.S. Department of HUD
Ralph H. Metcalfe Federal Building
77 West Jackson Boulevard, Room 2101
Chicago, IL 60604-3507
(312) 353-7776
1-800-765-9372
TTY 1-800-927-9275

Ohio Civil Rights Commission
Akron Regional Office
Akron Government Center
161 South High Street, Suite 205
Akron, OH 44308
(330) 643-3100 or
1-888-278-7101



HOUSING DISCRIMINATION:

DENIED HOUSING BECAUSE YOU HAVE CHILDREN

Housing Discrimination is NOT acceptable



CALL THE

The Fair Housing Programs
of Steubenville, Toronto & Jefferson County
Ohio Valley Fair Housing Center
115 South 3rd Street, Suite 108
Steubenville, OH 43953
(740) 283-6000 extension 1700
(740) 283-6082 fax

FAIR HOUSING FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

City, State and Federal laws prohibit discrimination against families with children. The law defines a family as:

- A household with a child or children under the age of 18;
- A pregnant woman; or
- A household in the process of obtaining custody of a child under the age of 18.

Discrimination against families with children can happen in many ways. A landlord may refuse to rent to a family *with children because they believe children will damage their apartment. Other housing providers may designate some buildings for families while others are for “adults only.” Both of these acts constitute illegal discrimination.*

What the Law Requires

Landlords, owners, real estate agents, and other housing providers cannot discriminate against families who are searching for housing because that family has children.



Examples of Illegal Activity

It is illegal for a landlord or other housing provider to do the following:

- Refuse to rent to a family because children may live in the apartment;
- Permit families with children to live on only one floor of a building or in one building but not in other buildings;
- Prohibit families with children under the age of six from living in a unit because there is or may be lead paint in the unit;
- Charge families with children more rent than households without children;
- Ask about the number of children who will be living in the unit.

Finally, it is illegal for any housing provider to require boys and girls to have separate bedrooms as a condition of renting a housing unit.

CALL THE FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION IF YOU SUSPECT YOU ARE BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST!

The purpose of this brochure is to raise awareness among community members, tenants, homeowners, landlords, and other housing providers about the fair housing rights of families with children.



If you believe you have been the victim of housing discrimination we will:

- ♦ **Take down information about what happened;**
- ♦ **Investigate any complaint we receive;**
- ♦ **Offer counseling about fair housing laws;**
- ♦ **Provide assistance in complaint filing with HUD and OCRC and counseling regarding our rights for filing in the courts.**

If you think you may have experienced illegal housing discrimination, or if you have questions, contact the:

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of Steubenville, Toronto & Jefferson
County
Ohio Valley Fair Housing Center
115 South 3rd Street, Suite 108
Steubenville, OH 43952
(740) 283-6000 extension 1700**