

## **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM DISCRIMINATED AGAINST?**

As soon as you feel, think, or believe 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

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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

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Ohio Civil Rights Commission  
Central Office  
30 East Broad Street, 5th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43205  
(614) 466-2785 or  
1-888-278-7101



## **HOUSING DISCRIMINATION:**

### **Based on Religion**

### **Housing Discrimination is NOT acceptable**



CALL THE

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of Steubenville, Toronto & Jefferson County  
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Steubenville, OH 43953  
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(740) 283-6082 fax

## What is discrimination?

Under the fair housing laws, it is discrimination for a landlord, agent, seller, or bank to treat people differently depending on their religion. You cannot be refused an apartment or loan, held to different eligibility standards, or evicted because of your religion. It is illegal for a real estate agent not to show you properties in certain neighborhoods because of your religion.

## How do the fair housing laws define religion?

The laws do not define religion. Presumably, landlords are not permitted to discriminate against any faith or belief system. However, it is possible that religious organization which advocate racial discrimination, such as the Ku Klux Klan, would not be protected by the fair housing laws. Certainly, landlords are not allowed to treat applicants differently because they lack any faith or organized religion.

## Can a landlord or agent ask about an applicant's religion?

That is illegal. A landlord cannot impose his or her own religious beliefs on renters nor can the landlord treat applicants of his or her own faith differently from people of other faiths.

## Some Examples of Discrimination:

*"What church do you go to?"*

*"I feel more comfortable with other Jews."*

*"People who have no religion have no morals."*

*"Are you interested in joining the Church of Christ?"*

*"Are you religious?"*

*"You probably wouldn't like this neighborhood-It is very Catholic."*

*"I hold a prayer meeting every Sunday. Is that something you'd be interested in?"*

*"How do I know you'll be reliable if you don't believe in the word of God?"*

*"Don't sell your house to those Jehovah's Witnesses -they'll bring the neighborhood down."*

## Do the Fair Housing laws apply to all housing?

The laws against sex discrimination apply to all housing EXCEPT:

- ♦ A home in which the landlord resides and rents out only one room;
- ♦ Buildings operated by a religious organization for other than a commercial purpose, unless the religion is racially exclusive.

## 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.*

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 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 108  
Steubenville, OH 43952  
(740) 283-6000 extension 1700**