

What is Housing Discrimination?

Housing discrimination happens if you receive different or unequal treatment in housing situations.

In Austin, you can't be discriminated against in housing because of your protected class, including:

- Race
- Color
- Religion
- National origin
- Sex
- Mental or physical disability
- Familial status (the presence of children under 18 years old in the household)
- Marital status
- Sexual orientation
- Gender identity
- Age (18 years or older)
- Student status
- Veteran's source of income only



The City of Austin EE/FHO will never ask you about or request information about your immigration status.

For assistance, contact the City of Austin Equal Employment Fair Housing Office

1050 E. 11th Street, Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78702
(512) 974-3251
EEFHO@austintexas.gov
Relay Texas - 711
Fax – (512) 974-3278

austintexas.gov/department/equal-employment-and-fair-housing-office

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request.

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City of Austin
Equal Employment
Fair Housing Office

FAIR HOUSING: IT'S THE LAW

Learn Your Rights

Choosing where you live is a right.



*Fair Housing -
It's not an option, it's the Law.*

What is Fair Housing?

Fair housing is your right to buy, sell, or rent residential property and to live where you want free from discrimination.

How do Fair Housing Laws Protect You?

Federal, state, and local fair housing laws protect you from housing discrimination based on a “protected class.”

A housing provider cannot:

- Refuse to sell or rent you an available housing unit
- Post a discriminatory notice or advertisement
- Apply different terms and conditions to a housing sale or rental
- Steer you to a particular neighborhood
- Terminate your tenancy or ownership rights
- Engage in harassment or sexual harassment
- Fail to accommodate your disability

You are also protected when you apply for home financing or when you use real estate broker services.

You cannot be retaliated against because you exercised your rights under the law.

Learn more about fair housing laws at austintexas.gov/department/housing-discrimination

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What Does Housing Discrimination Look Like?

You may be a victim of housing discrimination if you hear or see a housing provider say:

- Your rent will be higher because you have a service animal or because you have kids
- We don't rent to your “type”
- I can't rent to you because you have a disability
- I won't rent to you because you don't speak English
- I will give you a reduced rent if you go on a date with me
- I can't rent to you because you are a student
- I don't rent to gay people
- I won't rent to you because you are transgender
- You can't install grab bars in your tub even if you have a disability
- You are getting a violation notice for breaking a rule (and someone of a different race doesn't get one)
- We only rent to married couples
- I can't rent to you because of your age
- We can't give you a mortgage because you are on maternity leave
- I'm not going to show you a house to buy in that neighborhood, because your “type” won't like it there

The information in this brochure is for general education only and does not replace the advice of an attorney.

Retaliation is illegal

You cannot be threatened, harassed, or intimidated because you filed a complaint or you helped someone else who filed a complaint.

What Should I do if I Think I have been Discriminated Against?

Ending housing discrimination starts with you. You can file a complaint if you think you have been discriminated against. File your complaint as soon as possible but no more than one year after the alleged discrimination. There is no cost to file a complaint.

Housing discrimination is wrong and is against the law. Report it when you see it.

In Austin contact:

City of Austin's Equal Employment and Housing Office (EE/FHO)

512- 974-3251 or EEFHO@austintexas.gov

To learn more about fair housing laws, discuss your situation, or to learn how to file a complaint:

austintexas.gov/department/housing-discrimination

Outside of Austin contact:

Call the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 1-800-669-9777 or TTY 1-800-927-9275

hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_app/online-complaint