



Fair Housing: You Are Protected Under California Law

California law prohibits discrimination and harassment in all aspects of housing!

You may not discriminate against a prospective tenant or homeowner because of that person's:

- Race or color
- Ancestry or national origin
- Sex
- Marital status
- Source of income
- Sexual Orientation
- Familial status (households with children under 18 years of age)
- Religion
- Medical Condition
- Mental/Physical Disability
- Age

The **State Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH)** enforces California laws that provide protection and monetary relief to victims of unlawful housing practices. **The Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA)** prohibits discrimination and harassment in housing practices, including:

- Advertising
- Application and selection process
- Unlawful evictions
- Terms and conditions of tenancy
- Privileges of occupancy
- Mortgage loans and insurance
- Public and private land use practices (zoning)
- Unlawful restrictive covenants

In addition, the FEHA requires housing providers to make reasonable accommodation in rules, policies, practices and services to permit persons with disabilities to use and enjoy a dwelling. The law also allows persons with disabilities, at their own expense, to make reasonable modifications of the premises.

Available Relief for Victims

Remedies for victims of unlawful housing practices include: the housing previously denied, reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses, cease and desist orders, reasonable attorney fees and costs, civil penalties, and court-ordered punitive damages.

What Should You Do?

1. If you believe you have been a victim of illegal discrimination or harassment, you should write down as much information as possible about the situation or incident and contact the **California Department of Fair Employment and Housing**. Gather all related records, documents, receipts, and correspondence.
2. A complaint can be filed within one year of the act of discrimination or harassment. An attorney is not required, and there is no fee for the Department's services. All languages can be accommodated.

Call our Housing Unit TOLL FREE at: 1-800-233-3212
Hearing-Impaired Relay Service: 1-800-700-2320
or visit our website at: www.dfeh.ca.gov

The law protects you against retaliation for filing a complaint with the Department, for participating in a Department investigation, or for opposing any activity prohibited by the FEHA.

3. If it is not appropriate to file a complaint, the Department may, when appropriate, refer you to another agency for assistance with your concerns. You may be referred to the **State of California Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)** for information and assistance in settling landlord/tenant disputes. DCA can be reached by calling:

Call TOLL FREE at: 1-800-952-5210
or visit their website at: www.dca.ca.gov