

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc.

Fair Housing Advocacy Center



Report housing
discrimination. If you
don't do it for yourself,
do it for your children.

Revised 03/06

What is FHAC?

The Fair Housing Advocacy Center (FHAC) was established to enforce the fair housing laws. It currently serves Baker, Bradford, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties. There are no income requirements for FHAC clients. FHAC is committed to zealously advocate on behalf of victims of discrimination, and has a three-fold approach to accomplish this mission:

1. **EDUCATION:** FHAC educates housing consumers to recognize and report housing discrimination. If your group would like to receive a fair housing presentation, please call the hotline.
2. **INVESTIGATION:** FHAC often investigates cases of alleged discrimination through testing. Testing has proven to be a highly effective method of identifying unlawful housing discrimination. FHAC also conducts ongoing research and monitoring efforts to determine the nature and extent of housing discrimination being practiced in our community.
3. **ENFORCEMENT:** FHAC attorneys may negotiate a settlement for a client, represent a client in state or federal court, or may help a client file a case with a government agency, and advocate for him or her throughout the process.

What does the

law say?

State and federal fair housing laws prohibit discrimination in housing based on:

- Race
- Color
- National Origin
- Familial Status (presence of minor children or expectant mothers)
- Disability
- Sex (including sexual harassment)
- Religion

Fair housing laws forbid discrimination in most housing related transactions, including:

- The refusal to rent, sell, or deal with a person who falls in one of the above protected classes;
- Discrimination in the terms or conditions of the sale, rental occupancy, or in services or facilities;
- Falsely denying housing availability;
- Advertising in a discriminatory way;
- Discrimination in financing, broker's services, or homeowner's insurance;
- Refusal to make a reasonable accommodation or modification for a mentally or physically disabled tenant.

When should I

call FHAC?

Housing discrimination is often subtle. The victim often feels discriminated against, yet has no definite proof of it. That is why a FHAC investigation can be so helpful. Here are some examples of behavior which FHAC could investigate:

Race, Color, or National Origin Discrimination

- Your phone messages are not returned.
- Your housing community has a “black side” and a “white side.”
- You are told the house is rented, however you notice the house is still advertised.
- You are told one thing on the phone, and another when meeting with the owner or agent face to face.
- You are white, and you are told that you cannot have visitors of a different race in your home.

Disability Discrimination

- You request a reasonable accommodation for your disability and your housing provider refuses to comply.
- You request to build a ramp, or make some other modifications for your disability at your own expense, and your landlord refuses.
- You are evicted when the housing provider learns of your disability.

Sex Discrimination

- You are sexually harassed by any member of the housing provider’s staff.
- Your landlord requests that instead of paying rent, you provide sexual favors.

Familial Status

- You are told “no kids.”
- You are only told about units in the “kids area” of a complex or only shown units on the first floor when other units are available.
- You are told that your children do not have access to facilities, such as the swimming pool or playground.

Religion

- Because of your religion, you are subjected to an increased security deposit.
- You are told only about areas of town with a synagogue or mosque.
- Christian symbols are used in advertising.

Call FHAC’s hotline

904-356-8371

Outside (904):

1-800-411-3617

•to report housing
discrimination

•to request a fair housing
presentation

Fair Housing Advocacy Center
126 W. Adams St.
Jacksonville, FL 32202
(904) 356-8371
Fax: (904) 356-8285

Florida Relay
(for hearing and speech impaired)
1-800-676-3777 (English)
1-800-676-4920 (Spanish)