

When should I call JALA's Fair Housing Unit (FHU)?

Call FHU if you are a person with a disability and need assistance in pursuing your fair housing rights; if you would like a reasonable accommodation and want assistance requesting one; if you feel that your rights have been violated and want us to investigate your case; or if you simply have questions about your rights. Here are some examples of discriminatory behavior which we would investigate:

- A case manager is told by the manager of a complex that they won't take "programs for the mentally ill because of their insurance."
- A landlord refuses to waive a no pet rule for a person with a mental illness who is dependent on an assistance animal, and would be denied the opportunity to use and enjoy her home without an assistance animal.
- A landlord refuses to change a policy that requires proof of prior employment or rental history, when a person with a disability does not have such a history because he has been in an institution.
- A landlord refuses to waive a no guests policy if a tenant with a disability must employ a personal care attendant, therapist, nurse, etc. in order to live independently.
- A landlord or leasing agent tells a case manager who places the mentally ill in housing, "We have nothing available," when in fact there are units available.
- A landlord charges a tenant with a disability more rent than non-disabled tenants.
- After a tenant with a disability requests an accommodation, the landlord begins to harass or intimidate the tenant.



Fair Housing Unit

JACKSONVILLE AREA LEGAL AID

A Guide Explaining the Fair Housing Laws for People with Physical, Psychiatric and/or Developmental Disabilities and their Advocates

What is the Fair Housing Unit (FHU)?

The FHU enforces the fair housing laws throughout Baker, Bradford, Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns counties. There are no income requirements for FHU clients. FHU is committed to zealously advocate on behalf of victims of discrimination, and has a three-fold approach to accomplish this mission:

- 1. EDUCATION:** FHU 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:** FHU often investigates cases of alleged discrimination through testing. Testing has proven to be a highly effective method of identifying unlawful housing discrimination. FHU also conducts ongoing research and monitoring efforts to determine the nature and the extent of housing discrimination being practiced in our community.
- 3. ENFORCEMENT:** FHU attorneys may negotiate on behalf of a client, represent a client in state or federal court, or may help a client file a complaint with a government agency, and advocate for him or her throughout the process.

Call FHU's hotline to report housing discrimination or to request a fair housing presentation!
904-356-8371
Hotline: 1-866-356-8371



Fair Housing Unit
126 West Adams Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202
www.jaxlegalaid.org
(904) 356 - 8371
Fax: (904) 356-8780

FLORIDA RELAY (FOR HEARING AND SPEECH IMPAIRED)
1-800-955-8771 (ENGLISH)
1-800-955-8773 (SPANISH))