

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, sexual orientation or gender identity)
- 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;
- The refusal to make a reasonable accommodation or modification for a tenant with a disability

The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported by funding under a grant with the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development. The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federal Government. The information provided in this brochure is not a substitute for legal advice. The laws described here may change without notice. This information is not intended to substitute legal advice by an attorney.

Fair Housing Unit

JACKSONVILLE AREA LEGAL AID

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

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
- to request a fair housing presentation

(904) 356-8371

Hotline: 1-866-356-8371



Fair Housing Unit

126 W. 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))

When should I call the Fair Housing Unit (FHU)?

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

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

- You are a transgender woman and are asked not to wear women's clothes in common areas of your building
- You are a gay man and are being evicted because the new property manager thinks you will infect other tenants with HIV/AIDS

Note: If you have an impairment, disability, language barrier, or otherwise require an alternative means of reading this brochure or accessing information about Fair Housing, please contact us about arranging alternative accommodations.

