

## 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.



## Fair Housing Unit

JACKSONVILLE AREA LEGAL AID

## Familial Status Discrimination

Housing Discrimination against Families with Children

### What are Fair Housing Laws?

Federal, state, and local laws prohibit discrimination in housing based upon a person's:

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



### 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](http://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))

## Who has to obey these laws?

People selling, people renting, and people lending. But NOT owner-occupied dwellings with four units or less and not owners selling a single family home without a broker or advertisement.

## Who is protected under “familial status?”

Unless a building or a community qualifies as housing for older persons, it may not discriminate based on familial status. That is, it may not discriminate against families in which one or more children under 18 live with:

- A parent
- A person who had legal custody of the child or children
- The designee of the parent or legal custodian, with the parent or custodian’s written permission
- Pregnant women

Families are protected who have one or more people under the age of 18 living with a parent or guardian. Pregnant women and people anticipating gaining custody of a person under the age of 18 are also protected.

## What are signs of familial status discrimination?

- Being told “no kids” by a housing provider.
- Being segregated into a section or floor of an apartment complex that is “just for families.”
- Being told you’re your children cannot use recreational facilities that other residents enjoy.

**If you believe that you have been the victim of any type of housing discrimination, including familial status discrimination, contact Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc., and ask to speak with our Fair Housing Unit staff. More information is also available at the website for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development: <https://www.hud.gov/fairhousing>.**

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.

