

The purpose of the Fair Housing Department of the City of Canton is to provide equal opportunity and housing free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex/gender, disability, family status, or for being in the military. We are committed to:

- Educate – Train landlords, realtors, and others on best fair housing practices
- Partnering with other agencies for referrals
- Investigating any allegations of discrimination.

If you are prevented from living in the neighborhood of your choice because of discrimination, we encourage you to REPORT IT, because this is illegal. If you are not sure what could be a discriminatory situation, please read the information in this brochure.

If, after reading the brochure you feel that you have been discriminated against or you still have questions, please contact us and we will provide you with the information you need or refer you in the right direction.



*Fair Housing
Know your rights!*



**Fair Housing Department
City of Canton, Ohio**

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330-438-4133

<http://cantonohio.gov/fairhousing/>



Fair Housing is the law

Race / Color / National Origin / Ancestry

Sometimes the signs of housing discrimination are obvious, and sometimes they are very subtle. For example, a landlord or developer is breaking the law if he/she does not rent or sell to someone specifically because the prospective tenant or buyer belongs to a particular racial or ethnic group, such as African Americans, Asian American/Pacific Islanders, Latinos, or Native Americans, among others. It is, also, illegal to harass tenants because they belong to one of those groups.



Religion



It is illegal to treat home seekers differently because of their religion. Even if a housing provider mistakenly believes you are a specific religion, it is illegal to direct anti-religious slurs at your family. Religious discrimination extends to religious practices and customs. You cannot be treated differently because you wear specific religious attire or because you participate in particular rituals.

Disability

If you are a person with a disability, whether visible or invisible (mental, physical or emotional) a potential or current housing provider may not ask about the nature or severity of your disabilities. If a tenant's disability requires an exception to a (policy/rule), he/she needs to request a reasonable accommodation. Modifications are not restricted to the inside of a tenant's unit. Housing providers must merely permit tenants to make modifications – the disabled tenant must pay for the cost of a modification. The only exception to this rule is when the tenant lives in federally funded housing. A property that was built, renovated or insured with federal funds must pay the cost of a modification. If denied, you may have an allegation of discrimination.



Sex/Gender

It is illegal to treat home seekers differently because of their gender identity or sexual orientation. Also, the Fair Housing Act prohibits sexual harassment to tenants in exchange for housing. If so, you may have an allegation of discrimination.

Family Status (minors in the household)

It is illegal for housing providers to discriminate against potential or current tenants who have a child/children, are expecting a child, or are adopting or fostering children as a member of their household. Overly restrictive rules on children may be perceived as discrimination since housing standards must apply equally whether the tenant is an adult or a child. E.g. it is illegal to decline a prospective tenant, units where lead base paint hazard have not been controlled, just because the family has children.



Military / Veteran

Being active military or an honorably discharged veteran should not limit your housing options. Saying that you cannot rent because you could get called to serve and will not be able to finish the lease is discriminatory; and, if you are called up, you have the right to a lease release without any penalty.

