



Fair Housing: You Are Protected Under California Law

California law prohibits discrimination and harassment in all aspects of housing!

You may not discriminate against a prospective or current tenant or homeowner because of that person's:

- Race
- Color
- Religion
- National origin
- Ancestry
- Disability (mental and physical)
- Sex
- Gender
- Gender identity
- Gender expression
- Sexual orientation
- Source of income
- Marital status
- Familial status (households with children under age 18)
- Genetic information
- Age (limited scope)

The **Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH)** enforces California laws that provide protection and monetary relief to victims of unlawful housing practices. The **Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA)** prohibits discrimination and harassment in housing practices, including:

- Advertising
- Unlawful evictions
- Privileges of occupancy
- Public and private land use practices (zoning)
- Application and selection process
- Terms and conditions of tenancy
- Mortgage loans and insurance
- Unlawful restrictive covenants

In addition, the FEHA requires housing providers to make reasonable accommodation in rules, policies, practices and services to permit persons with disabilities to use and enjoy a dwelling. The law also allows persons with disabilities, at their own expense, to make reasonable modifications of the premises.

Available Relief for Victims

Remedies for victims of unlawful housing practices include: the housing previously denied, reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses, cease and desist orders, reasonable attorney fees and costs, civil penalties, and court-ordered punitive damages.

What Should You Do?

1. If you believe you have been a victim of illegal discrimination or harassment, you should write down as much information as possible about the situation or incident and contact the **California Department of Fair Employment and Housing**. Gather all related records, documents, receipts, and correspondence.
2. The law also protects you against retaliation for filing a complaint with the Department, for participating in a Department investigation, or for opposing any activity prohibited by the FEHA.
3. A complaint must be filed within one year of the act of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation. An attorney is not required, and there is no fee for the Department's services. All languages can be accommodated.

Call the DFEH TOLL FREE at 1-800-884-1684
(Hearing-Impaired Relay Service at 1-800-700-2320)
or visit our website at www.dfeh.ca.gov

4. If it is not appropriate to file a complaint, the Department may, when appropriate, refer you to another agency for assistance with your concerns. You may be referred to the **State of California Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)** for information and assistance in settling landlord/tenant disputes.

Call the DCA TOLL FREE at 1-800-952-5210
or visit their website at www.dca.ca.gov