



Department of Fair Employment & Housing

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DFEH LAUNCHES ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATORY "NO SECTION 8" HOUSING ADVERTISEMENTS

DFEH investigation finds over 50 listings in Sacramento County refusing to rent to tenants with Section 8 vouchers.

Sacramento – The Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) announced today an enforcement action targeting discriminatory housing advertisements in Sacramento County. Over a ten-day period in January, DFEH found 55 separate rental listings in Sacramento County containing discriminatory statements refusing to rent to prospective tenants with government housing subsidies.

On January 1, 2020, SB 329 (Mitchell) went into effect, making it unlawful for housing providers to turn away tenants who hold government housing assistance vouchers, including programs like Section 8. Government housing subsidies are now considered a protected "source of income" under California's fair housing laws. Advertisements for the sale or rental of housing accommodations that indicate a preference or limitation based on source of income are unlawful.

"The point of the law is to ensure all housing applicants with Section 8 and other housing assistance vouchers receive a fair vetting from housing providers," said DFEH Director Kevin Kish. "Advertisements that exclude voucher holders from applying for housing are unlawful and must be taken down."

DFEH sent letters to the housing providers that posted the unlawful listings warning them that they must take immediate action to comply with California law, and warning them that their failure to comply with the law could result in civil penalties, punitive damages, and attorneys' fees, among other consequences. Additionally, DFEH published a [Frequently Asked Questions document](#) for housing providers on how to comply with the new law. DFEH will target other counties for the same enforcement action in the coming weeks and encourages individuals who encounter discriminatory advertisements or who believe they have been denied housing because they hold government vouchers to file complaints with the Department.

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The DFEH is the state agency charged with enforcing California's civil rights laws. The mission of the DFEH is to protect the people of California from unlawful discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations and from hate violence and human trafficking. For more information, visit the DFEH's web site at www.dfeh.ca.gov.

