



Your Fair Housing Rights

Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity



The latest amendments to Virginia's fair housing laws includes fair housing protections for LGBTQ+ Virginians. Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity were added to the list of protected classes in July 2020.

By law, you may not be denied or treated differently in the rental, sale, lending, or insuring of housing anywhere in Virginia on the basis of any of the protected classes you belong to.

Sexual Orientation:



It is illegal to discriminate against a person for their actual or perceived heterosexuality, bisexuality, homosexuality, or any other non-heterosexual orientations. This includes discrimination due to someone's physical appearance, current partner, mannerisms, or any self-identifying symbols or flags.

Examples of discrimination include:

- A landlord starts charging different fees or making rules and conditions for a transgender tenant after they transition.
- Differential treatment, such as a property manager offering appointment times and rent specials to heterosexual couples, then avoiding giving specific information to same-gender couples.
- Using homophobic or transphobic slurs to refer to an applicant or tenant.
- Other tenants harass and intimidate a neighbor because their same-gender partner moves in with them.
- Refusing to accept same-gender spouses as tenants in senior housing communities.
- Harassing a tenant by not using their correct pronouns or chosen name on purpose.
- A real estate agent suddenly changes attitudes and stops accommodating a potential buyer after realizing their driver's license does not match their apparent gender.

Gender Identity:



It is illegal to discriminate against someone for their gender-related identity, appearance, or other gender-related characteristics, with or without regard to their designated sex at birth. This includes discrimination due to someone's gender non-conforming appearance, legal identification not matching their preferred gender, or any self-identifying symbols or flags.

We Can Help! Report Housing Discrimination at [HOMEofVA.org/Report](https://www.HOMEofVA.org/Report)

or email FairHousing@HOMEofVA.org, or call 804-354-0641 VA Relay 711. HOME can help determine if you have been discriminated against, and may help you seek the remedies that are available to everyone under fair housing laws. As a non-profit provider, our services are provided **statewide** and are **free and confidential**.