



# Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity Your Fair Housing Rights

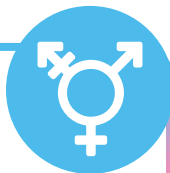
By law, you may not be denied or treated differently in the rental, sale, financing, or insuring of housing anywhere in Virginia on the basis of any of the protected classes you belong to including race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability, familial status, being over 55 years old, source of funds, military status, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

## Sexual Orientation:



A person's actual or perceived heterosexuality, bisexuality, homosexuality, or any other non-heterosexual orientations. This includes someone's physical appearance, current partner, mannerisms, or any self-identifying symbols or flags.

## Gender Identity:



A person's gender-related identity, appearance, or other gender-related characteristics, with or without regard to their designated sex at birth. This includes someone's gender non-conforming appearance, legal identification not matching their preferred gender, or any self-identifying symbols, flags, or pronouns.

**Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity are protected by fair housing laws as of 2020.**

## 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 landlord 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.



**You have a right to fair housing, HOME of VA can help!**

**Report Housing Discrimination at [HOMEofVA.org/Report](https://HOMEofVA.org/Report)**

**[FairHousing@HOMEofVA.org](mailto:FairHousing@HOMEofVA.org) • 804-354-0641 • VA Relay 711**

**Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia** 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**.



The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported by funding under a grant with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federal Government.