

You are Protected



Race
Color
Religion
National Origin
Sex/Gender
Familial Status
Disability
Age 55+
Source of Funds
Military Status
Sexual Orientation
Gender Identity

If you feel you may be a victim of housing discrimination, please contact us:

www.HOMEofVA.org/Report

fairhousing@HOMEofVA.org

804.354.0641

Information from HOME is not intended to be legal advice. Please consult an attorney for legal advice.

Alternative formats available upon request.

HOME'S MISSION:

*Ensure Equal Access to Housing
for All People*



Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia (HOME) is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and a HUD-approved housing counseling agency.

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FAIR HOUSING

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



**Housing Opportunities
Made Equal of Virginia**

**Everyone has the right to
live where they choose,
free from discrimination.**

Fair Housing is a Right

What is fair housing?

The Virginia and federal fair housing laws provide protection in housing to groups of persons based on certain characteristics. A group sharing a protected characteristic is described as a "protected class." Together, the Virginia and federal fair housing laws prohibit discrimination in housing-related transactions (rental, sales, lending, insurance, zoning) based on the protected classes of:

Race any race

Color any skin color

Religion any religion or no religion

National Origin any nationality

Sex gender

Disability mental or physical

Familial Status having children under 18, being pregnant, or adults securing custody of children

Age 55+ 55 years or older

Source of Funds lawful source of income

Military Status Members of the uniformed services, reserves, their dependents, and veterans

Sexual Orientation actual or perceived heterosexuality, homosexuality, or bisexuality

Gender Identity gender-related identity, appearance, or characteristics, with or without regard to the individual's designated sex at birth

Each of us is a member of several protected classes. Fair housing laws apply to us all!

HOME is Here to Help

Housing discrimination may include:

- Refusing to rent to a person using a wheelchair for fear a unit may be damaged, or refusing to allow the installation of a ramp.
- Advertising an apartment as "no section 8."
- Refusing to rent a single unit to same-gender spouses in a senior housing complex, but allowing heterosexual spouses to live together.
- Limiting the number of children in a complex or confining them to a specific building or floor.
- Steering minority homeowners to sections of town where other minorities live or telling white homeowners they may not be welcome in some neighborhoods.
- Charging additional rent or deposits because someone with a disability needs a service, therapy or companion animal.
- Charging different fees or rates on a loan just because someone is Native American.
- Building a brand new, multi-family building which is not accessible to people with disabilities.
- Requiring that Muslims pay for criminal background checks but waiving the requirement for persons of other religions, races or nationalities.
- Propositioning a tenant for sex for rent or repairs, or making inappropriate sexual comments.
- Rejecting a rental application because a tenant's perceived gender does not match their identification documents.
- Telling a tenant: "Since you use a walker, you need additional insurance coverage."

The Law is on Your Side

What can HOME do?

HOME will help you determine whether what has happened is unlawful discrimination, and may help you seek the remedies that are available to everyone under fair housing laws. In certain situations, HOME will file (or assist in filing) complaints to ensure that uncovered discriminatory housing practices cease. HOME will also provide technical assistance to educate housing providers on fair housing laws so they do not unknowingly discriminate.

If you have faced housing discrimination, please let us know! Visit:

[HOMEofVA.org/Report](https://homeofva.org/report)



Please note that some exemptions from fair housing laws exist for smaller housing providers and for senior housing communities. Contact HOME for more details.