

YOUR HOUSING RIGHTS



What is Housing Discrimination?

Housing discrimination occurs when you are prevented from living in a house or apartment where you choose due to your race, color, religion, national origin, sex, physical or mental handicap, marital status or presence of children in your family.



What are the Clues of Possible Discrimination?

- ▶ The sign says "vacancy" and the manager says, "It's rented."
- ▶ The story you are told in person is different from the information given on the phone.
- ▶ You are told, "You wouldn't like it here," or "There's no place for children to play."
- ▶ The manager takes your application, says you will be called after references are checked, but you are not contacted.
- ▶ The manager is unfriendly and says the waiting list is long.
- ▶ You are told to come back next week; the unit can't be shown at the present time.
- ▶ You are told, "We only take two people in a two bedroom."

A Landlord May Require:

- ▶ Past landlord references.
- ▶ A certain income level.
- ▶ Credit references.
- ▶ Advanced rent, fees or deposit.

All these requirements are legal if the same requirements, standards and conditions are applied to everyone, equally.

Federal and state laws prohibit housing discrimination on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, physical or mental handicap, and marital or familial status. In addition, state laws make provisions for disabled people to have aid animals, e.g. seeing eye dogs, etc.

Be Assertive and Good Luck!

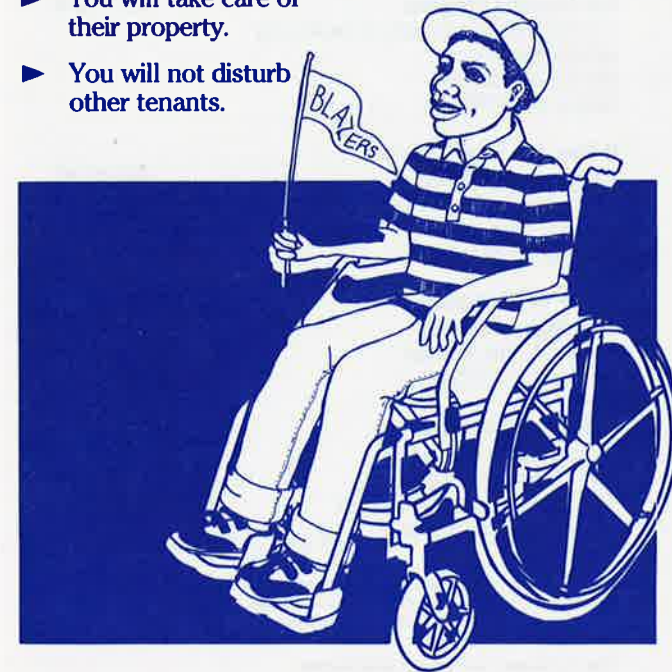
Tips For Apartment Hunters.

When you go to see an apartment:

- ▶ Be on time for your appointment.
- ▶ Be neat. Treat meeting with a landlord or manager like going to a job interview.
- ▶ Have all the required information organized (bank account numbers, reference names and phone numbers, credit card numbers, etc.).
- ▶ If you like an apartment, put a deposit on it. The deposit will show the landlord that you are serious and that you have the necessary financial resources. Ask about fees in advance and get receipts. Be aware some fees may be non-refundable.
- ▶ Try to get an individual appointment with the manager or landlord, rather than attend an open house.

Landlords Want To Be Assured That:

- ▶ You will pay the rent on time.
- ▶ You will take care of their property.
- ▶ You will not disturb other tenants.



**What Do
You Do
If You
Feel You
Have Been
Discriminated
Against?**



Contact:

**City of Portland/
Multnomah County:**

Fair Housing Officer
City of Portland
808 S.W. Third, # 600
Portland, OR 97204

796-5394

Human Solutions, Inc.
2900 S.E. 122nd
Portland, OR 97236

248-5200

If You Are Low-Income:

Fair Housing Program
Multnomah County Legal Aid Service
321 S.W. Fourth Ave., #900
Portland, OR 97204

224-4086

Washington County:

Fair Housing Program
c/o Washington County Community
Action Agency
20515 S.W. Blanton
Aloha, OR 97007

642-3236

If You Are Low-Income:

Oregon Legal Services
Hillsboro Regional Office
230 N.E. Second, #A
Hillsboro, OR 97124

648-7163

State of Oregon:

Civil Rights Division
1400 S.W. 5th Avenue
Portland, OR 97201

229-5900

U.S. Government:

Department of Housing
and Urban Development
Toll-Free Number To Report
Housing Discrimination

1-800-424-8590

1-800-424-8529

(T.D.D. — Hearing Impaired)

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This information is not intended as legal advice.

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