

# Know Your Fair Housing Rights!

You are protected from housing discrimination by federal, state, and local laws.

**Housing discrimination** may be occurring if you're treated differently by anyone who sells, rents, or leases housing because of your race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, family status, age, military status, gender identity, partnership status, citizenship status, occupation, or source of income. These are "protected characteristics."

Discrimination Based On:	Examples of who are protected:
<b>Race</b>	People who are Latino, African American, Asian, Caucasian, etc.
<b>Color</b>	People who are brown, black, white, etc.
<b>National Origin</b>	People who are immigrants or refugees, or whose family is comprised of immigrants
<b>Religion</b>	Christians, Muslims, Jews, Atheists, etc.
<b>Sex</b>	Male or Female
<b>Disability</b>	People with any physical, medical, mental, psychological impairment, or if they are regarded as having such an impairment
<b>Family Status</b>	Families with children under 18, including pregnant women
<b>Age</b>	Adults, elderly people, and children
<b>Military Status</b>	Active or reserve members in the U.S. Army, Navy, etc. Includes honorably discharged veterans
<b>Gender Identity</b>	Transgender and gender non-conforming individuals
<b>Partnership Status</b>	Individuals in a domestic partnership
<b>Alienage/Citizenship Status</b>	Immigration status or citizenship of an individual
<b>Lawful Occupation</b>	An individual's lawful profession
<b>Lawful Source of Income</b>	Any form of public or housing assistance, including Section 8 vouchers
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	Individuals who are gay, lesbian, queer, heterosexual, etc.
<b>Limited English Proficiency</b>	A landlord may be violating your fair housing rights based on your "national origin"

## Your rights could be violated if any of the following occurs because of a protected characteristic:

### *Selling, Renting, or Leasing Housing*

- Refusing to sell, rent or lease housing
- Misrepresenting the availability of housing
- Making different arrangements and terms in the lease, such as rental charges or security deposits
- Failing to process an offer for sale or rental or to communicate an offer accurately to some applicants

### *Different Treatment and Conditions for Your Apartment*

- Providing different housing services or facilities for different tenants
  - Refusing or delaying repairs for your apartment while providing them for others
  - Limiting the use of services or facilities in a building
  - Denying or limiting services or facilities in connection with the sale or rental of your home

### *Advertising and Applications for Housing*

- Publishing an advertisement that expresses any specifications, limitations, or preferences based on a protected characteristic
- Asking about a protected characteristic on a housing application or in an interview

### *Reasonable Accommodations and Modifications*

- Housing providers must make reasonable changes to rules, policies, services and the physical structure of a building to make sure that people with disabilities can enjoy their housing accommodations on an equal basis with non-disabled tenants

### *Retaliation*

- Punishing, harassing, or threatening people who asserts their fair housing rights or anyone who helps people to assert their rights

**If you feel that you've been a victim of housing discrimination, report it! Please see our referral list. Brooklyn A can speak with you about making a complaint or filing a lawsuit.**



Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A

Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A  
 260 Broadway, suite 2 Brooklyn NY 11211  
 phone: 718/487-2300 or 1-800-696-6778  
 fax: 718/782-6790  
[www.bka.org](http://www.bka.org)