

Know Your Fair Housing Rights!

Housing Discrimination Based on Lawful Source of Income

If you are treated differently because you receive any kind of public or housing assistance, you may be a victim of housing discrimination.

What is my “lawful source of income”?

Includes any income that you receive from social security, or other forms of public or housing assistance, including Section 8 vouchers

It is **illegal** for a landlord who owns any building containing 6 or more units to **discriminate against a tenant or applicant** because that individual needs to **pay his or her rent with lawful income other than a paycheck.**

Is This Discrimination?

“A landlord denied my application for housing because he said that my Section 8 voucher would take too long to process.”

YES

“A real estate agency required a credit and criminal background check before they would show me an apartment because I am a Section 8 voucher holder. Other applicants were shown apartments immediately.”

YES

“A landlord told me that I can’t move in because the building is for ‘working people only.’”

YES

“My landlord is trying to evict me because the part of my rent that welfare pays always arrives late in the month.”

YES

It is **illegal to retaliate** against someone for reporting housing discrimination, or helping someone else to report discrimination. Retaliation can take the form of evictions, harassment, threats, intimidation, or even a change in policy in the way your landlord handles a lease violation.

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
260 Broadway, suite 2 Brooklyn NY 11211
phone: 718/487-2300 or 1-800-696-6778
fax: 718/782-6790
www.bka.org