

---

**DON'T LET ILLEGAL  
DISCRIMINATION STOP YOU  
FROM GETTING THE HOME YOU WANT**



**IMPORTANT INFORMATION  
FOR ALL HOUSING CONSUMERS  
RENTERS, HOME BUYERS, MORTGAGE APPLICANTS...**



**www.FHCO.org  
800/424-3247 Ext. 2**

---

# What is the Fair Housing Council?

The Fair Housing Council of Oregon (FHCO) is a nonprofit civil rights organization serving Oregon and southwest Washington.

We promote equal access to housing consistent with fair housing laws which protect against illegal housing discrimination.

Our mission:

To eliminate illegal housing discrimination across Oregon and southwest Washington.

We carry out our mission by:

Providing education and enforcement assistance related specifically to fair housing laws.

We offer additional information at: [www.FHCO.org/hs\\_consumer\\_info.htm](http://www.FHCO.org/hs_consumer_info.htm), as well as easy ways to get involved at [www.FHCO.org/get\\_involved](http://www.FHCO.org/get_involved).

You can also join the FHCO on our website, purchase merchandise, or schedule special events that help fund our efforts and spread the message of fair and equitable housing for all.

---

This brochure can be made available in alternative formats for those with disabilities, or for those who need translation.

Please inquire if needed.

Additional translated materials are available at [www.FHCO.org/translations.htm](http://www.FHCO.org/translations.htm).

# We Can Help!

Have you or someone you know experienced illegal housing discrimination?

Call our Hotline at  
800/424-3247 Ext. 2

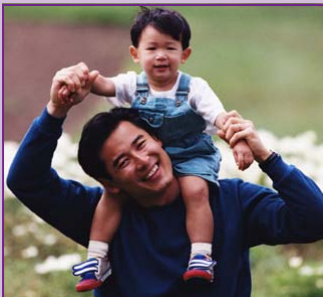
The call is free. The service is free. Complimentary TTY-accessible and language interpretation are available.

We will interview you and gather pertinent information.

When you call, please be prepared with:

- The address where the alleged discrimination occurred
- The date of the incident(s)
- The name of those involved
- The name of any witness(es)

We will give information about your rights and options under fair housing



law. In some cases, we may be able to conduct a fair housing test that may further your case.

You can also call if you simply have fair housing questions!

# Who Must Comply...

...with federal, state, and local fair housing laws?

Basically everyone must comply with fair housing laws!

The list below is not exhaustive but illustrates the point that, basically, everyone should know about and must comply with fair housing laws.

Following is a list of "housing providers," all of whom must abide by fair housing laws:

- Landlords and Property Managers
- Owners and Portfolio Managers
- Property Sellers
- Sales Agents and Brokerage Offices
- Multiple Listing Services
- Housing Industry Trade Associations
- Builders and Developers
- Condo and Homeowners' Associations
- Mortgage Lenders and Appraisers
- Home Insurance Companies
- Designated Senior Communities
- Long Term Care Facilities
- Governmental Jurisdictions

Plus:

- Any employees or contractors who work for a housing provider

Even:

- Housing consumers! You and your neighbors must comply with fair housing laws, as well. Your neighbors can't, for example, harass or intimidate you because of your race, religious beliefs, etc.
-

# What Are My Fair Housing Rights?

Fair housing laws prohibit illegal housing discrimination.

Discrimination is illegal in any housing situation if it is based on, or adversely affects, a “protected class.”

That is, if someone denies you a home, treats you differently, or harasses you because of one of the reasons listed below, it is illegal.

The fair housing laws are subject to change. Visit [www.FHCO.org](http://www.FHCO.org) for updates.



## Federal Protected Classes:

Race, Color, National Origin

Religion

Gender and Sexual Harassment

Familial Status (kids under 18)

Disability (physical or mental)

## Also Protected in Oregon:

Marital Status

Legal Sources of Income

Sexual Orientation / Gender Identity

Domestic Violence Survivors

## Also Protected in Washington:

Marital Status

Sexual Orientation / Gender Identity

Military Status (honorably discharged vets.)

Domestic Violence Survivors

## Local Jurisdictions:

[www.FHCO.org/pdfs/matrix\\_ore.pdf](http://www.FHCO.org/pdfs/matrix_ore.pdf), and

[www.FHCO.org/pdfs/matrix\\_wash.pdf](http://www.FHCO.org/pdfs/matrix_wash.pdf).

# How Do I Recognize Housing Discrimination?

When discrimination is based on a protected class and related to housing, it is illegal. It may be obvious or very subtle; it could be deliberate or unintentional. Either way, it is illegal.

However, discrimination is not always illegal. For example, pets and smoking are not protected classes so “no pets” or “no smoking” rules are not illegal.



The following, if based on protected class, are just a few illegal examples:

Being turned down for a home.

Being told a home is not available when it is.

Being directed to a home in a certain area, section of a complex, or neighborhood.

Being charged higher rates or offered less favorable terms than others.

Being harassed or intimidated in your home because of protected class status.

Being denied a reasonable request directly related to a disability.

One in every ten Oregonians feel they have experienced illegal housing discrimination.

Don't let housing discrimination shut you out. Stand up for your rights.

We Can Help!

# Help Fight Illegal Housing Discrimination!

Learn more about your rights and responsibilities under federal, state, and local fair housing laws!

Learn more at:  
[www.FHCO.org](http://www.FHCO.org)

What's more, you can help.  
Become a fair housing tester.  
We need people like you!

The purpose of testing: Testers pose as housing consumers—somewhat like a “secret shopper”—in order to gather evidence. It is often the only way to prove if a housing provider is violating fair housing laws.

Are testers paid? Yes. The amount will depend on the kind of test conducted. We also reimburse for any mileage and long distance calls required. How often you test will depend on your availability and the type of complaints we receive.

Will I be trained?  
Yes! Testers must complete free training.



Learn more at:  
[www.FHCO.org/pdfs/TesterBrochure.pdf](http://www.FHCO.org/pdfs/TesterBrochure.pdf)

---

This brochure was supported by a HUD Community Development Block Grant from the Oregon Business Development Department, and the FHCO.

©2010. FHCO. All rights reserved.

---

# Did You Know?

Our website offers extensive FAQs, links, and additional information. **Visit [www.FHCO.org](http://www.FHCO.org)**

We conduct a poster contest each year. **Entry information at [www.FHCO.org/contest.htm](http://www.FHCO.org/contest.htm)**

We offer tours of sites of historic discrimination. **Learn more at [www.FHCO.org/tours.htm](http://www.FHCO.org/tours.htm)**

We created a traveling exhibit that chronicles the history of housing discrimination in Oregon. **[www.FHCO.org/anywhere\\_but\\_here.htm](http://www.FHCO.org/anywhere_but_here.htm)**

We also offer fair housing classes for all audiences, as well as self-testing services for housing providers. **[www.FHCO.org](http://www.FHCO.org)**

House hunting should be fun.  
In truth, it's also a lot of work.



**Either way, your home search should not be hindered by illegal housing discrimination.**

Look for the logos above as a sign that housing providers know and respect the law.

If your civil rights have been violated in a housing transaction, call the Fair Housing Hotline at 800/424-3247 Ext. 2 or visit [www.FHCO.org](http://www.FHCO.org) to learn more.