

## KNOW YOUR FAIR HOUSING RIGHTS

The Prince William County Human Rights Ordinance promotes and enforces local, state and federal fair housing throughout the County. The County's Human Rights Office investigates complaints for protected classes — race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, marital, familial status, gender identity, sexual orientation and source of income.

Some examples of discrimination are:

- “No kids” policies.
- Evicting people of color.
- Discrimination against individuals who need support animals.
- Discrimination against individuals in wheelchairs.
- Discrimination against interracial couples and same-sex couples.
- Refusing to rent to you because of your age (too young or too old). Note: Senior living communities are exempt from this policy.
- Gender discrimination.
- Refusing to rent to individuals with AIDS.
- Refusing to rent to mentally challenged individuals.
- Refusing to rent to pregnant women.

## HAVE YOUR RIGHTS BEEN VIOLATED?

If you think your rights have been violated, contact our office with the following information:

- Your name and address.
- The name and address of the person you are complaining against (the respondent).
- The address or other identification of the housing involved.
- The violation event that caused you to believe your rights were violated.
- The date(s) of the alleged violation.

### PRINCE WILLIAM Human Rights

15941 Donald Curtis Drive  
Suite 125  
Woodbridge, VA 22191  
Phone: 703-792-4680  
Fax: 703-792-6944  
TTY: 703-792-4677

[pwcva.gov/humanrights](http://pwcva.gov/humanrights)

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY  
IS THE LAW!**



**FAIR HOUSING  
IT'S THE LAW**

Know how you are protected and what to do if you believe you have been discriminated against.

**PRINCE WILLIAM  
Human Rights**



## PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW THE FAIR HOUSING ACT

The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing because of:

- Race or Color.
- National Origin.
- Religion.
- Sex.
- Familial status (including children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians; pregnant woman and people securing custody of children under 18).

- Disability.
- Sexual Orientation.
- Gender Identity.
- Marital Status.
- Source of Income.
- Status as a Veteran.



## HAVE YOU FACED CLOSED DOORS?

The Prince William County Human Rights Commission enforces:

- The Federal Fair Housing Act.
- The Virginia Fair Housing Act.
- The Human Rights Ordinance (Chapter 10.1).

If you feel you have been discriminated against please contact the Human Rights Office.

*Everyone has a right to fair housing — the right to live where you choose and to own a home with dignity without fear of discrimination.*



## WHAT HOUSING IS COVERED?

The Fair Housing Act covers most housing. In some circumstances, the Act exempts owner-occupied buildings with no more than four units, single-family housing sold or rented without the use of a broker and housing operated by organizations and private clubs that limit occupancy to members.



## WHAT ACTIONS ARE PROHIBITED FOR PROTECTED CLASSES?

- Refusal to rent or sell housing.
- Refusal to negotiate for housing.
- Making housing unavailable.
- Otherwise denying a dwelling.
- Setting different terms, conditions or privileges for sale or rental of a dwelling.
- Providing different housing services or facilities.
- Falsely denying that housing is available for inspection, sale or rental.
- Persuading or trying to persuade homeowners to sell or rent dwellings for profit by suggesting that people of a particular race, religion, sex, etc. have moved or are about to move into the neighborhood. This is often referred to as “blockbusting.”
- Denying any person access to, membership or participation in, any organization, facility or service (such as a multiple listing service) related to the sale or rental of dwellings, or discriminating against any person in the terms or conditions of such access, membership or participation.