



National Origin and Ancestry

Housing Discrimination Based on National Origin or Ancestry Is Illegal

Equal housing laws prohibit those who sell or rent housing to discriminate based on your race, color, national origin or ancestry. Landlords must have the same criteria regarding credit, require the same deposit, and have the same rules for all tenants, without regard to their race, the color of their skin, their national origin or their ancestry.



What Does “National Origin” mean?

National origin refers to your birthplace, ancestry, language, and / or customs. It is illegal for a landlord to deny housing or treat someone differently in a housing transaction because of a person’s name, appearance, accent, or participation in customs associated with a nationality.

Can a landlord require a social security number?

Using a social security number as part of a background check on a prospective tenant is considered a standard rental practice as long as the landlord requires a social security number from all prospective tenants. If a landlord only asks for documentation from applicants who have an accent or look foreign, it is illegal discrimination based on national origin.

Can a landlord discriminate against people who do not speak English?

No, however there is no legal requirement for private landlords to provide translation for the tenants.

Suspect Discrimination When . . .

- You hear one version of the story on the phone and another in person.
- You have been told that the apartment or house was rented, but the “For Rent” sign is still up.
- Someone takes your application and promises to call you back, but your phone never rings.
- You are not allowed to leave a deposit.
- The manager tells you that you have to live in a certain area of the apartment complex where “others like you” live.
- The manager charges you a higher deposit or higher rent than other tenants.
- The manager or owner tries to convince you not to rent.

If You Suspect Housing Discrimination, Call

Housing Opportunities Made Equal

2400 Reading Road, Ste. 118
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Ph: (513) 721-4663
Fax: (513) 721-1642

Visit our web site: www.homecincy.org




HOME is a private, non-profit fair housing agency serving all of the Greater Cincinnati area. If you believe that you may have experienced discrimination, we can help you by:


- Recording the facts about what happened to you
- Investigating and help resolve the complaint
- Offering advice and counseling about your legal options


Fair Housing





Tips To Protect Your Rights


 **DO NOT** sign a lease or any paper you do not understand. If needed, a family member, case worker, or friend can go with you to sign the lease. Even a HOME staff member can go over your lease with you. Call HOME at (513) 721-4663 if you need help with your lease.


 **DO NOT** take an unfinished or dirty apartment. Your landlord must provide a clean, safe, and secure living space for you before you sign your lease.

 When you pay your rent or security deposit, ask for a receipt anytime you give your landlord a payment. The landlord is allowed to ask for the payment and you are allowed to have a record of that payment.

 When you first move into an apartment, walk through your apartment with your landlord to make sure everything is working properly and make a checklist of all damages.

 Take pictures of the new apartment when you move in so you are not responsible for any damage that you did not cause. In your pictures, hold up a newspaper from that day with the date on it, so you can show the date when the pictures were taken.

 If you have a companion animal that any health care professional (Doctor, Therapist, Case Worker, Clergy, etc.) tells you that you need, tell your landlord about the animal and he has to give you permission. The landlord cannot charge you a pet deposit or fee because a service or companion animal is **NOT** a pet.

 **YOU ARE** responsible for any damages to the home or apartment you are renting. **YOU ARE** also responsible for any damages caused by your guests or friends.

A Landlord **CANNOT**:

- Refuse to rent to a person with a mental or physical disability.
- Ask about your disability. It is your private information and you do not have to tell the landlord about your disability, any medication you are taking, and/or any treatment you are receiving.
- Set different rents, security deposits or conditions on a person with a disability.

REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR RENT ON TIME AND BE A GOOD TENANT!



If you have any tenant-landlord problems call HOME at

(513) 721-4663