

# The Fair Housing Division of The Office of Community Relations Enforces the law by:

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- 1) Taking your complaint when you suspect discrimination.
- 2) Investigating your complaint promptly.
- 3) Attempting to reach an agreeable settlement with all parties if the investigation findings support your complaint.
- 4) Holding a hearing if a settlement is not reached.

City of Springfield  
The Office of Community Relations  
1450 Groth Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62703  
217-789-2270  
Fax. 217-789-2268



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## Fair Housing... KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

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City of Springfield

# FAIR HOUSING...KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

## through the Office of Community Relations

### THE COMMISSION

The Office of Community Relations enforces the City's Fair Housing Ordinance by receiving, and investigating complaints of discrimination.

### YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE LAW:

The City's Fair Housing Ordinance declares it to be the right of all persons to seek, purchase, sell, lease, or rent homes or apartments anywhere in the city, free from discrimination by owners and real estate agents.

The law further states that no owner, lessee, sub lessee, assignee, managing agent or other person, firm, or corporation may discriminate in the sale or rental of residential real estate in the City of Springfield because of RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, NATIONAL ORIGIN, ANCESTRY, FAMILIAL STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABILITY, OR THE PRESENCE OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 IN THE FAMILY.

The Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 modified the definition of a discriminatory housing practice to include acts of interfering, coercing, threatening, or intimidating a person in the exercise or enjoyment of his/her rights.



### LOCAL ORDINANCE PROHIBITS:

- 1) Refusal to sell, rent, lease, finance, negotiate, etc. in connection with the disposition of housing accommodations based upon unlawful discrimination.
- 2) Unlawful discrimination in the terms and conditions (by owner, landlord, or their agents) relating to the sale, lease, or rental of housing accommodations.
- 3) Advertisements indicating that housing is not equally available to all persons.
- 4) False assertion or implication of the availability of housing accommodations for inspection, sale, lease, or rental based on unlawful discrimination.
- 5) Refusal of commercial lending institutions to make home loans based on unlawful discrimination.
- 6) A person, for the purpose of inducing a real estate transaction from which he may benefit financially:
  - (a) to represent that a change has occurred or will or may occur in the composition of the owners or occupants in the block, neighborhood, or area in which the real property is located, or
  - (b) to present that this change will or may result in the lowering of property values, an increase in criminal or antisocial behavior, or a decline in the quality of schools in the block, neighborhood, or area in which the real property is located.

### HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT:

If you believe that you have been the victim of discrimination, you may file a complaint within 180 days of the occurrence with the Fair Housing Division of the Office of Community Relations.

You may call the Fair Housing Division at 789-2270 or come into our office and our professional staff will receive your complaint and take the necessary information to initiate an investigation.



The following information should be included in your

complaint:

- Date and time that the incident occurred
- Address of the house or apartment
- Witness(es) to the incident
- Names of the real estate owner, manager, agent, and/or other persons involved
- Details as to what occurred
- Documentation that is relevant to your discrimination complaint

The Office of Community Relations is ADA Compliant.