The Office of Human Rights is a governmental agency that provides Fair Housing education and enforces the Fair Housing Law in Howard County.

Fair Housing Brochures
In Other Languages

Please contact the Office of Human Rights for a brochure in Spanish, Korean, Chinese and Vietnamese.

Calvin Ball, County Executive
Yolanda F. Sonnier, Administrator

Howard County
Office of Human Rights
9820 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 237
Columbia, MD 21046
Phone: 410-313-6430
Fax: 410-313-6468
www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/County-Administration/Human-Rights

For more information about your Fair Housing rights and Housing discrimination, contact:

• Howard County Office of Human Rights
  Phone: (410) 313-6430
  VOICE/RELAY
  https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/County-Administration/Human-Rights

• Maryland Commission on Civil Rights
  Phone: (410) 767-8600
  Toll free: 1-800-637-6247
  TTY (410) 333-1737
  www.mccr.maryland.gov

• U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
  Fair Housing Regional & Field Office:
  Philadelphia, PA
  Phone: (215) 861-7646
  Toll free: 1-888-799-2085
  TTY 1-800-927-9275
  www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/

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It Is Against the Law to Discriminate in the Sale or Rental of Housing on the Basis of:

- Race
- Creed
- Color
- Sex
- Age
- Religion
- National origin
- Disability
- Occupation
- Marital status
- Political opinion
- Sexual orientation
- Personal appearance
- Familial status
- Source of income
- Gender Identity

For other types of housing problems (i.e. landlord-tenant, fraud, sales, loans) contact:

Howard County Office of Consumer Protection (OCP) at (410) 313-6420

Your Fair Housing Rights
When you buy or rent, you have the right to:

- See any house or apartment in any neighborhood or location.
- All information about the price, fees, taxes and other charges related to housing.
- Have a contract presented, application considered, income evaluated, and interest and fees charged the same as other persons.
- Take possession of, move into, and live peacefully in the residence of your choice.
- Make, at your expense, reasonable modifications so that the unit is more accessible, such as installing grab bars in the bathroom.

It Is Unlawful To:

- Refuse to rent to you or sell you housing.
- Tell you housing is unavailable when it is.
- Deny persons with disabilities the right to make reasonable accommodations.
- Advertise housing to preferred groups of people or to exclude protected groups.
- Show you homes or apartments only in certain neighborhoods.
- Refuse financing of housing.
- Refuse to provide you information regarding mortgage loans, deny you a mortgage loan or impose different conditions or terms on a mortgage loan.
- Set different terms, conditions or privileges for the sale or rental of a dwelling.
- Deny you property insurance.
- Harass, coerce, intimidate or interfere with anyone exercising or assisting someone else with his or her fair housing rights.

Your Fair Housing Responsibilities
When you sell or rent to others:

- You must make the unit available to all persons.
- The conditions for sale or rent must be the same for all applicants.
- You should not steer applicants to homes selected because of the racial, religious, or ethnic characteristics of the area.

When You Advertise:

It is discriminatory if you make or your agent causes the making, printing or publishing of any notice, statement or advertisement regarding the sale or rental of a dwelling that indicates a preference or limitation.

For a complete copy of Howard County’s Fair Housing Law, go to www.co.ho.md.us and click Howard County Charter and Code. The Housing Law will be under Title 12, Subtitle 2, Section 12.207.