

September 3, 2015

During this entire process, mediation is offered to both parties. Mediation involves both parties sitting down together to discuss the situation. The goal of mediation is to have the parties come to a resolution themselves with the help of Metro's mediation specialist. The mediation specialist is not the investigator but a third party that helps the parties resolve the matter. Mediation is voluntary.

September 10, 2015

Fair housing means that you have the right to live where you choose and can afford. You have the right to use and enjoy your home or apartment as all other individuals living in your neighborhood or apartment building regardless of certain protected characteristics such as your race, color, religion, national origin, familial status, or disability. Denying you housing or treating you differently because of these personal characteristics is housing discrimination.

September 17, 2015

Familial status is a characteristic that is protected only under the fair housing laws. Landlords cannot deny you housing or subject you to different terms and conditions, such as charging you a higher rent, because you have children living with you or you are pregnant. Landlords cannot put you in certain designated buildings or locations because you have children. Landlords cannot make rules that apply only to children, such as curfews that apply to children only or a rule prohibiting children from playing outside.

September 24, 2015

You have the fair housing right to be given truthful information. Telling you a house has been rented or sold when in fact it is still available is unlawful. As stated above, you have the fair housing right to choose where you want to live and can afford. Refusing to show you a house or a certain apartment building or trying to convince you that another neighborhood or apartment building would be better for you because people who live there look like you, is housing discrimination.

October 1, 2015

Everyone is protected by the Fair Housing Act regardless of immigration status. While it is not illegal to ask applicants to document their citizenship or immigration status, it is illegal for a landlord to only ask for identification from those he or she believes are not citizens. A landlord is required to ask for the same forms of identification from all applicants and cannot ask for additional documents that others are not asked to provide. It is also unlawful to refuse to rent to you because you do not speak English

October 8, 2015

Here are some signs that you may have been discriminated against in housing: 1) The “for rent” sign is still posted, and you are told the apartment was rented; 2) Landlord refuses to accept a deposit; or 3) You walk in to ask for an apartment, and you are told the apartment has JUST been rented.

October 15, 2015

There are things you can do to protect yourself from housing discrimination. You should always call and get important information such as availability and terms before you visit an apartment. You can suspect discrimination when the story you are told in person is different than the information given on the phone. It is also a good idea to bring a friend with you so that you have a witness. Always remember to get as much information as you can and write it down.

October 21, 2015

Fair housing laws prohibit discrimination against individuals who are disabled or who are associated with people with disabilities. Under the law, a person is considered disabled if he or she has a physical or mental disability that affects a major life activity, has a record of having such a disability, or is regarded as having a disability. Examples of disabilities include: hearing, mobility, and visual impairments, chronic mental illness, dementia, AIDS/HIV, developmental disabilities, autism, and alcoholism and past drug use. If you have an impairment that limits your ability to walk, talk, hear, see, breath, learn, perform manual tasks or care for yourself you could be someone that is considered to have a disability.

October 28, 2015

If you are someone with a disability your landlord is required to make reasonable accommodations to afford you equal opportunity to use and enjoyment of your apartment, home, or dwelling. What is a reasonable accommodation? A reasonable accommodation is a change made to a policy, program or service that allows a person with a disability to use and enjoy their dwelling, including public and common use areas. Examples of reasonable accommodations include providing rental forms in large print for someone with a visual impairment, or permitting a transfer to the first floor or providing reserved accessible parking space near a resident’s rental to a resident with mobility impairment.