

Fair Housing Laws: Know Your Rights

Federal Fair Housing Act Protected Classes

Federal law makes it illegal to discriminate in housing because of:

Race – A person's race or the race of persons with whom one associates.

Color – A person's skin color.

Sex – A person's sex, including sexual harassment or intimidation.

National Origin – The country of one's birth and/or the nationality of one's ancestors.

Religion – A person's religious beliefs or denominational affiliation.

Disability/Handicap – A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

Family/Familial Status – Household composition, including the presence of children.

Wisconsin Open Housing Law Protected Classes

State law includes all federal protections, plus the following additional classes:

Age – Persons 18 years of age and older.

Ancestry – The country of one's birth and/or the nationality of one's ancestors.

Marital Status – Married, single, divorced, widowed or separated.

Lawful Source of Income – A person's legal means of income, including such subsidized forms as Social Security, Food Stamps, Unemployment Compensation, etc.

Sexual Orientation – Heterosexuality, homosexuality and bisexuality.

Domestic Abuse, Sexual Assault and Stalking Victims – Persons who have been or are victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault or stalking.



Questions? Call 608-257-0853 or 1-877-647-3247 (a toll-free complaint intake line) for more information, or visit www.fairhousingwisconsin.com

If you need materials in alternate formats or other accommodations to access our services, please call 608-257-0853.



Like us on Facebook!

Local Fair Housing Ordinances Protected Classes

The City of Madison and Dane County have these additional protected classes:

Military Discharge Status – Type of military discharge, also including active duty status.

Physical Appearance – The outward appearance of any person.

Political Beliefs – A person's opinions concerning the social, economic and governmental structure of society and its institutions.

Student Status – Having or not having standing as an enrollee of a school or apprenticeship program.

Domestic Partnership – Two adults in a relationship of mutual support, who occupy the same dwelling as a single housekeeping unit, and whose relationship is of a permanent domestic character.

Tenant Union Association – Persons who form or are associated with a tenant union.

Gender Identity – Identifying or presenting oneself as male, female or androgynous, regardless of one's biological sex at birth.

Genetic Identity* – Genetic information unique to the individual, including information about genetic tests.

Citizenship Status* – The immigration status or citizenship of any person.

Section 8 Housing Vouchers – Participants in the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Homelessness* – The status of lacking housing, including having a shelter or transitional housing facility as a primary residence.

Nonreligion* - Atheism, agnosticism, or other disbelief or lack of belief in the existence of God or gods.

* City of Madison only.



Questions? Call 608-257-0853 or 1-877-647-3247 (a toll-free complaint intake line) for more information, or visit www.fairhousingwisconsin.com

If you need materials in alternate formats or other accommodations to access our services, please call 608-257-0853.



Like us on Facebook!