

If you are denied an opportunity to rent a home or apartment—or given false information about a rental—because of a physical or mental disability, you are a victim of illegal housing discrimination.

In addition, fair housing laws require landlords to make “reasonable accommodations” and allow tenants to make “reasonable modifications” so household members with disabilities can have an equal opportunity to use and enjoy their rental housing.

It is also illegal for landlords or other housing providers to treat in-place residents or their guests unfavorably because they have a disability.

DISABILITY



SIGNS & EXAMPLES OF RENTAL HOUSING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON DISABILITY

- ❖ Refusing to rent, or requiring a larger security deposit, for a person with a wheelchair.
- ❖ “Steering” a visually-impaired person to a downstairs unit.
- ❖ Charging late fees to a resident whose government disability check does not arrive on time.
- ❖ Applying a no-pets policy, or requiring a pet deposit or extra rent, because of a service animal or companion animal.
- ❖ Refusing to allow a tenant to make modifications to the rental unit that make it more accessible.
- ❖ Building new multi-family housing units that do not meet accessibility standards.

IF YOU SUSPECT ILLEGAL HOUSING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON DISABILITY

Contact the *GBLA Fair Housing Law Project (FHLP)* at Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance.

Phone: 661-334-4679 or 855-746-7958 (toll free and California Relay Service)

Email: fairhousing@gbla.org

Website: www.GBLAfairhousing.org

- ❖ FHLP will interview you to find out what happened and advise you of your rights and options.
- ❖ In appropriate cases, FHLP will conduct an investigation to determine if there is evidence of illegal housing discrimination.
- ❖ If FHLP’s investigation reveals evidence of housing discrimination, we can assist you in filing a complaint with the U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) or the California Dept. of Fair Employment & Housing (DFEH), provide you with legal representation, attempt to resolve the matter through negotiation or landlord education, or take other appropriate steps.

IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR HOUSING PROVIDERS TO DENY HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES OR TREAT PEOPLE DIFFERENTLY BECAUSE OF RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RELIGION, SEX, FAMILIAL STATUS, DISABILITY, ANCESTRY, MARITAL STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, SOURCE OF INCOME, AGE, OR ARBITRARY CHARACTERISTICS.