

## FAMILY STATUS



If you are denied an opportunity to rent a home or apartment—or given false information about a rental—because you have children under the age of 18 in your household, you are a victim of illegal housing discrimination.

It is also illegal for landlords or other housing providers to treat in-place residents or their guests differently because they have minor children.

### SIGNS & EXAMPLES OF RENTAL HOUSING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON FAMILIAL STATUS

- ❖ Advertising or verbal statements saying “no kids.”
- ❖ Landlord has overly restrictive occupancy limits. In most situations, California law permits two people per bedroom, plus one additional person (i.e., 5 people in a 2-bedroom home).
- ❖ You were “steered” to a downstairs unit, or your choice of units or buildings was limited because you have children.
- ❖ Community rules are so strict that “kids can’t be kids”—even when they are behaving properly (i.e. “Children cannot play outside without adult supervision at all times.”).
- ❖ Community pool is restricted to adults or has a different schedule for children.
- ❖ Landlord will not let you operate a licensed daycare facility or have foster children.
- ❖ Raising your rent because you brought a child into your household.

### IF YOU SUSPECT ILLEGAL HOUSING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON FAMILIAL STATUS

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](mailto:fairhousing@gbla.org)

**Website:** [www.GBLAfairhousing.org](http://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.