

RELIGION

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

It is also illegal for landlords or other housing providers to treat in-place residents differently because of religion.

There are limited exceptions for religious groups that provide some specialized housing (i.e. housing for current or retired religious workers), as long as the religious group does not discriminate based on race, color, or national origin.

There are also Constitutional protections for freedom of religion and freedom of speech that apply to housing providers as well as tenants and housing seekers.



SIGNS & EXAMPLES OF RENTAL HOUSING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RELIGION

- ❖ Asking housing seekers or tenants about their religious beliefs, or making disparaging comments about the appearance or practices of a religious group.
- ❖ Advertising statements that imply a preference for or against tenants of certain religions.
- ❖ Pressure by landlords or their agents, in the course of their work, for residents to join their religious group or attend religious services.
- ❖ Giving better rental terms, treatment, or services to tenants who share the religious beliefs of the landlord or landlord's agents.

IF YOU SUSPECT ILLEGAL HOUSING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RELIGION

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.