

If you are denied an opportunity to rent a home or apartment—or given false information about a rental—because of your sexual orientation, 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 unfavorably because of the individual's sexual orientation.

California fair housing laws include protections for people who are (or are perceived to be) straight, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered.

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION



### SIGNS & EXAMPLES OF RENTAL HOUSING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION

- ❖ Refusing to rent to an individual or couple because of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.
- ❖ Treating same-sex couples who are married or in a domestic partnership, differently from heterosexual married couples.
- ❖ Derogatory comments about a resident's or guest's sexual orientation by the landlord or employees, including refusal to respect a resident's gender identity.
- ❖ Failing to protect the right of "quiet enjoyment" of rental housing when a resident is harassed or intimidated because of the resident's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.
- ❖ Advertising a preference for or against residents based on sexual orientation.

### IF YOU SUSPECT ILLEGAL HOUSING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION

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 on the basis of sexual orientation, we can assist you in filing a complaint with the California Department 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.