

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

**Fair housing laws protect us from discrimination, both where we live and where we want to live.** As you are searching for housing, it is important for you to understand your rights, and, if a problem arises, to know where to turn for help. The Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research can provide free information and assistance.

It is illegal for a landlord to treat you differently or deny you housing because you belong to a **protected class**, including:

- Race/Color
- National Origin/Ancestry
- Sex (includes sexual orientation & gender identity)
- Disability
- Religion
- Familial Status (includes those who are pregnant or have children under 18)
- Military Status



**Fair Housing Center  
for Rights & Research**



**Fair Housing Center  
for Rights & Research**

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# HOUSING VOUCHERS

## AND YOUR RIGHTS



**A RESOURCE FOR HOUSING VOUCHER  
HOLDERS IN NORTHEAST OHIO**



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## WHAT IS SOI DISCRIMINATION?

Source of income — or SOI — discrimination occurs when a housing provider refuses to rent to tenants because they use a voucher, subsidy, or other lawful source of income to help pay their rent.

## PROTECTIONS FOR HOUSING VOUCHER HOLDERS

While SOI discrimination is still legal in some places, many cities in Cuyahoga County offer additional protections in their fair housing ordinances, which may include source of income. Source of income protections prohibit discrimination against families with vouchers.

### CITIES\* IN NORTHEAST OHIO THAT PROHIBIT SOI DISCRIMINATION:

- Linndale
- South Euclid
- University Heights
- Warrensville Heights
- Wickliffe
- Cleveland Heights

*\* This information is current as of April 2021.*

## IT IS ILLEGAL FOR A HOUSING PROVIDER TO DO THE FOLLOWING BECAUSE OF YOUR PROTECTED CLASS:

- Refuse to rent, sell, or negotiate for housing
- Make housing unavailable or restrict choice
- Set different terms, conditions or privileges for sale or rental of housing
- Provide different housing services or facilities
- Falsely deny that housing is available
- Persuade owners to sell or rent (blockbusting)
- Deny access to or membership in a facility or service related to the sale or rental of housing
- Retaliate against a person for making a fair housing complaint
- Discriminate in mortgage lending

## EXAMPLES OF DISCRIMINATION:

- Restricting families with children to the first floor units, or specific buildings
- Refusing to rent to people with children under a certain age or stating a limit on the number of children in a household
- Saying “No Section 8” where prohibited by local law
- Not responding to people of certain races when they inquire about renting, while responding to others
- Refusing to permit or charging a pet deposit for a service or assistance animal
- Refusing to rent to someone because of their gender identity or sexual orientation
- Refusing to rent to people who are not U.S. citizens
- Having a rental policy that automatically denies anyone with a felony conviction
- Refusing to rent to someone because of their faith

**The Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research**, a nonprofit fair housing organization, is available to assist you with questions you may have about your fair housing rights.

Federal and state fair housing laws prohibit discrimination in housing due to your race, color, religion, national origin, sex, family status (minor children in your household), disability, ancestry, or military status. Local ordinances may provide additional protections.

**If you have been discriminated against or need assistance with a reasonable accommodation or modification, The Fair Housing Center is here to help.**



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**QUESTIONS? CONTACT US.**

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