



## **FAIR HOUSING RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS**

It is illegal to discriminate in the sale or rental of housing, including against individuals seeking a mortgage or housing assistance, or in other housing-related activities. The Fair Housing Act prohibits this discrimination because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), familial status, and disability. A variety of other federal civil rights laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, prohibit discrimination in housing and community development programs and activities, particularly those that are assisted with HUD funding. These civil rights laws include obligations such as taking reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to their programs and activities for persons with limited English proficiency (LEP) and taking appropriate steps to ensure effective communication with individuals with disabilities through the provision of appropriate auxiliary aids and services. Various federal fair housing and civil rights laws require HUD and its program participants to affirmatively further the purposes of the Fair Housing Act.

### **If You Believe Your Rights Have Been Violated**

#### **Filing a Complaint in the State of Texas**

The Texas Workforce Commission ("TWC") is the entity responsible for enforcing the Fair Housing Act in the State of Texas. You have one year after an alleged violation to file a complaint, but you should file it as soon as possible. Complaints can also be made directly to HUD. Complaints can be filed by email, fax, phone call, hand delivery or mail:

#### **Texas Workforce Commission**

Civil Rights Division

1117 Trinity Street, Room 144-T

Austin, Texas 78701

(888) 452-4778 or (512) 463-2642

TTY: 512-371-7473

Fax: 512-463-2643

[HousingComplaints@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:HousingComplaints@twc.state.tx.us)

Download the [TWC Complaint Form](http://www.twc.state.tx.us) ([www.twc.state.tx.us](http://www.twc.state.tx.us)).

## **You can also file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) works to eliminate housing discrimination and promote civil rights and economic opportunity through housing. FHEO enforces fair housing laws. One of its roles is to investigate complaints of housing discrimination. If you believe you have been discriminated against in violation of any of these federal fair housing laws, you can [file a complaint](#) with FHEO.

### **How to File a Complaint with HUD**

#### **Online**

You can file a complaint with FHEO online in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).

#### **Email**

You can download [this form](#) (also available in [Arabic](#), [Cambodian](#), [Chinese](#), [Korean](#), [Russian](#), [Somali](#), [Spanish](#), and [Vietnamese](#)) and email it to your local FHEO office at the email address on [this list](#).

#### **Phone**

You can speak with an FHEO intake specialist by calling 1-800-669-9777 or TTY: 1-800-877-8339.

You can also call your regional FHEO office at the phone numbers on [this list](#).

#### **Mail**

You can print out [this form](#) (also available in [Arabic](#), [Cambodian](#), [Chinese](#), [Korean](#), [Russian](#), [Somali](#), [Spanish](#), and [Vietnamese](#)) and mail it to your regional FHEO office at the address on [this list](#).

## **Information About Filing a Complaint**

If you believe your rights may have been violated, we encourage you to submit a complaint.

Because there are time limits on when a complaint can be filed with HUD after an alleged violation, you should submit a complaint as soon as possible.

When submitting a complaint, please provide as much information as possible, including:

- Your name and address;
- The name and address of the person(s) or organization your complaint is against;
- The address or other identification of the housing or program involved;
- A short description of the event(s) that cause you to believe your rights were violated; and
- The date(s) of the alleged violation.

**Privacy Statement:** The information submitted to HUD may be used to investigate and process claims of housing and other types of discrimination. It may be disclosed for lawful investigatory purposes, including to the U.S. Department of Justice for its use in the filing of pattern and practice suits of housing discrimination or the prosecution of the person(s) who committed the discrimination where violence is involved; the public, where appropriate; and to State or local fair housing agencies that administer substantially equivalent fair housing laws for complaint processing. Though disclosure of the information is voluntary, failure to provide some or all of the requested information may result in the delay or denial of help with your housing discrimination complaint.

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## **Retaliation Is Illegal**

It is illegal to retaliate against any person for making a complaint, testifying, assisting, or participating in any manner in a proceeding under HUD's complaint process at any time, even after the investigation has been completed. The Fair Housing Act also makes it illegal to retaliate against any person because that person reported a discriminatory practice to a housing provider or other authority. If you believe you have experienced retaliation, you can file a complaint.

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### **Assistance for Persons with Disabilities**

HUD provides a toll-free teletypewriter (TTY) line: 1-800-877-8339. You can also ask for disability-related assistance when you contact FHEO, including reasonable accommodations and auxiliary aids and services.

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### **Assistance for Persons with Limited English Proficiency**

You can file a complaint in any language. For persons with limited English proficiency, HUD provides interpreters. HUD also provides a [Spanish language version](#) of the online housing complaint form. You can find descriptions of your fair housing rights in several languages other than English [here](#).

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### **Types of Complaints Investigated by FHEO**

FHEO investigates complaints, which may be one or both of the following types:

- Discrimination under the Fair Housing Act (including housing that is privately owned and operated)
- Discrimination and other civil rights violations in housing and community development programs, including those funded by HUD



**FAIR HOUSING IS THE LAW!**