

Common Tester Questions



What is Hope Fair Housing Center?

Founded in 1968, HOPE is a non-profit agency working to promote equal housing opportunities regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, familial status, or any other characteristics protected under state or local laws.

What is testing?

Testing is a controlled method of measuring and documenting differences in the quality, quantity, and content of information and service given to various home seekers by housing, mortgage lending, and insurance providers. Being a tester is somewhat like being a "secret shopper".

What does a tester do?

The tester's role is to gather detailed information about a housing transaction. HOPE investigates rental housing providers, real estate firms, lending institutions, and insurance companies. A tester may be asked to pose as a home renter or buyer. The tester reports on their experience, but is asked not to draw any conclusions.



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Common Tester Questions (cont.)



Why use testing?

Federal and state fair housing laws make it illegal to discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, marital status, familial status, or disability in the sale, rental, financing, and insuring of housing. However, the practice of housing discrimination continues to severely limit the housing choice of thousands of citizens in our communities.

Some examples of of discrimination include denial or lying about the availability of housing, home loan or home insurance, illegal steering, race-based appraisals, constructing inaccessible buildings, or offering different terms or conditions based on one of the protected classes. Testing helps give us an inside look to the realities of illegal practices.

Testing is an important tool that fair housing centers and government agencies use to uncover discrimination. There are also many institutions and agencies in the housing and lending industries who engage in self-testing to make sure that their employees act in compliance with fair housing laws.



**Want to become a HOPE tester? Call HOPE
Fair Housing Center at 630-690-6500 or
Email info@hopefair.org**