The Illinois Human Rights Act provides additional protections:

- Ancestry
- Marital Status
- Military Status
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender Identity
- Age (over 40)

- Order of Protection Status
- Unfavorable Military Discharge
- Pregnancy
- Arrest Record
- Source of Income

Federal and local laws protect families with children and pregnant women, so that every parent has the right to choose where they want to raise their child and have an equal opportunity to housing.
### How HOPE Can Help

**If you think you may be a victim of housing discrimination:**
- **Contact** HOPE Fair Housing Center.
- **Document** meetings and phone calls with landlords, property managers, real estate agents, loan officers, and insurance agents.
- **Save** all receipts, copies of applications, business cards, and other documents.

**All of HOPE's services are FREE!**

When appropriate, HOPE can:
- Investigate potential discrimination
- Advocate on your behalf with a housing provider
- Assist in filling a Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) complaint
- Help conciliate your case with the offending party
- Refer your case to attorneys that are experts in fair housing litigation

### Occupancy Standards

Housing providers have the right to say how many people can live in a unit. However, any limit that is less than two people per room is considered unreasonable. Size of rooms and total living space should be considered.

### Rules

Building rules should apply to all tenants and focus on behavior not status (i.e. teen, child).

### Advertisements

Advertisements for housing may never express preference based on one of the protected classes.

### Exempt housing

Specific housing designed for older persons is exempt from familial status protection of the Fair Housing Act. Additionally, owner-occupied buildings with four units or less are also exempt from the familial status rule except in advertising.

**Examples of Familial Status Discrimination include:**
- Advertisements suggest a preference for couples or singles or say "No Children"
- A landlord asking for a higher deposit because you have children
- A real estate agent telling you a certain neighborhood is or isn't better for kids
- A landlord or property manager insists you can only rent units on a certain floor or in a particular part of the building
- Building rules include things such as "No teens loitering after 10 PM"
- Limits on the number of people you can have in the apartment are unreasonable
- A loan officer charging higher interest rates because you or your partner are pregnant

**Families can never be evicted because they have children**

**Legitimate reasons for someone not to rent or sell a dwelling include insufficient income and poor credit history. Whatever policies are in place must be applied to ALL participants.**