

What is Fair Housing?

Fair housing is the right for all people to live where they choose, have access to housing, and enjoy the full use of their homes without unlawful discrimination, threats, coercion, or intimidation.

What is Housing Discrimination?

Housing discrimination can take shape in many forms, some of which may not be easily recognizable. Examples of housing discrimination can include, but are not limited to:

- Denial of, or lying about the availability of, housing, home loans or home insurance
- Illegal steering
- Constructing inaccessible buildings
- Saying "no children allowed"
- Offering different terms or conditions based on one of the protected classes
- Propositioning a tenant for sex in exchange for rent or repairs
- Applying "No Pets" policies to service animals

HOPE Fair Housing Center

Founded in 1968, HOPE Fair Housing Center is the oldest and largest fair housing center in Illinois. HOPE works to create greater housing opportunities for all, and accomplishes this through education, outreach, enforcement, training, and advocacy.

HOPE Fair Housing Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and **does not charge for its services**



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HOPE

Fair Housing Center



Creating Opportunity.
Ending Discrimination.

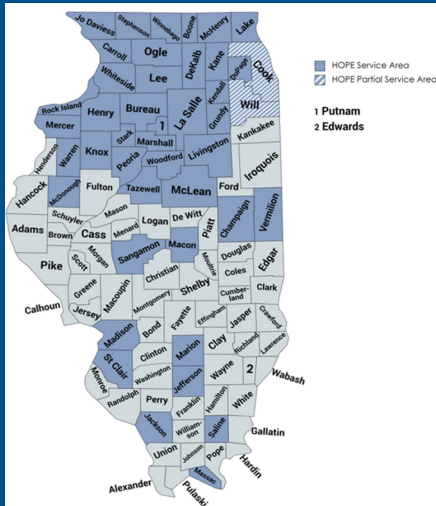


prohibits discrimination in housing
based on these protected classes:

- Race
- Color
- National Origin
- Religion
- Sex
- Disability
- Familial status (households with children under 18)

provides additional protections:

- Ancestry
- Marital status
- Age (+40)
- Military status
- Sexual orientation
- Gender identity
- Order of Protection status
- Unfavorable military discharge
- Pregnancy
- Arrest Record
- Source of Income



***HOPE provides services to
over 30 counties in Northern
and North Central Illinois.***

All of HOPE's investigative and enforcement services are **free**.

In some cases, HOPE may be able to advocate for a reasonable accommodation or modification

Reasonable Accommodations are changes in rules, policies, practices, or services that allow a person with a disability to use and enjoy their housing. Such accommodations must be granted, unless the landlord or housing provider can show a legitimate business reason for denial.

Reasonable Modifications require landlords or housing providers to allow reasonable modifications to the structure of the existing premises at the tenant's expense, unless the unit is HUD- subsidized.



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.

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

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/residents.