

Victims of Domestic Violence

Sex discrimination has been interpreted to include discrimination against victims of domestic violence, as the majority of victims are women. Fair housing laws protect female victims of domestic violence from being denied housing because of past violence committed against them, and from being evicted under the grounds of a "zero tolerance" crime policy. It is illegal to evict a domestic violence victim because she called the police, or obtained a restraining order against her abuser. Discrimination against domestic violence victims jeopardizes housing security for victims and their families leaving abusive situations.

Furthermore, if a tenant lives in or is applying to a federally subsidized housing program, a federal law called the Violence Against Women Act also prohibits housing discrimination against victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Sexual Harrassment

Sexual harassment in housing includes repeated, unwelcome sexual demands, sexual comments and/or physical contact with an existing or a potential resident. It is illegal for a housing provider to request sexual favors in exchange for housing-related services such as repairs or discounted rent. Unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that is so severe or pervasive that it interferes with a person's ability to live in the unit is also illegal.

Property staff, an association board member, a real estate agent, or even a lender is prohibited from engaging in sexual harassment. Housing providers are required to take action if they learn that a tenant is sexually harassing another tenant.

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SEX DISCRIMINATION



Sexual Harrasment

Domestic Violence

Sexual Orientation

Gender Identity

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1.800.321.0911
TTY: 866-660-4288

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If You Believe You're a Victim of Housing Discrimination



TTY: 866.660.4288

What is Sex Discrimination?

Sex discrimination occurs when someone is treated differently on the basis of one's sex, or where a housing-related policy has a disproportionate negative impact on individuals because of their sex. Such discrimination in housing is prohibited by the federal Fair Housing Act and California law.

Examples of Housing Discrimination:

- Refusing to rent to a tenant based on gender or sexual orientation (LGBTQ).
- Unwelcomed sexual advances, comments, threats, or offers of lower rent to a tenant by a landlord, other staff, or even neighboring tenants.
- Evicting a tenant because a restraining order was obtained against a spouse.
- A landlord or apartment manager evicting a tenant because she is a victim of domestic violence who called the police.
- Creating restrictive policies/rules prohibiting a transgender or gender non-conforming person from wearing clothes consistent with their gender identity in common areas.

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if you believe you're a
victim of sex discrimination

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Domestic Violence

Fair Housing laws protect victims of domestic violence from being denied housing and/or evicted under the grounds of a "zero tolerance" crime policy. It is illegal to evict victims of domestic violence because she/he called the police, or obtained a restraining order, whether the abuser is a tenant or a guest. This type of discrimination jeopardizes housing security for survivors and their families who may often be seeking or need to retain housing when leaving abusive situations.

Sexual Harrasment

Sexual harassment may include unsolicited sexual demands, sexual comments and/or physical contact by a housing provider or resident within an apartment community. For example, a housing provider who seeks sexual favors in exchange for housing-related services, such as repairs or discounted rent is illegal. It is illegal for property staff, an association board member, a real estate agent, or a lender to treat a current or potential resident in this manner.

Sexual Orientation

California law protects people who identify themselves as gay, lesbian, or bisexual from housing discrimination. This includes denying people housing opportunities based on stereotypes related to sexual orientation. For example, the refusal to lease to a gay man based on the belief that he has HIV/AIDS is considered unlawful discrimination.

Gender Identity

California law protects people who identify themselves as transgender, genderqueer, and cisgender from housing discrimination. The law also protects people who present or express themselves in ways that do not conform to traditional gender or sex stereotypes.

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