

FAIR HOUSING IS NOT AN OPTION

IT'S THE LAW!

The Federal Fair Housing Act and the Missouri Human Rights Act prohibit discrimination in housing rental, sales, and lending due to race, color, national origin, religion, physical or mental disability, sex, or having children in the household.

Alert!

Protections for Persons with Disabilities

Your Right: Freedom from Discrimination

It is illegal to be discriminated against because you have a physical or mental disability, are perceived to have a disability, or live or associate with a person who has a disability.

Your Right: Reasonable Accommodations

Landlords are required to make reasonable accommodations, such as changes and exceptions to rules, policies, practices, and services, when the accommodation is necessary for a person with a disability to have the same opportunity as a person without a disability to use and enjoy housing. Accommodation requests must be reasonable; landlords do not have to make changes that are an undue burden. Reasonable accommodations can include reserving a close-up parking space for a tenant with limited mobility and changing a strict "no pets" policy to allow for service animals.

Your Right: Reasonable Physical Changes

Reasonable modifications are physical changes to a housing unit built before March 13, 1991, that allow a person with a disability full use, access, and enjoyment of a dwelling. Landlords cannot deny a tenant's request for reasonable modifications needed to make the housing accessible to and usable by a person with a disability. In most cases,

Fair Housing: Opening Doors for All Missourians

alterations to the property are at the tenant's expense. A landlord may oversee modifications to the property and require the tenant return the unit to its original state when he or she vacates. Modifications must be reasonable, and the landlord does not have to make or allow the tenant to make overly burdensome changes. Widening a door, installing a wheelchair ramp, and installing grab bars in the bathroom are common reasonable modifications.

Your Right: Accessible Housing

Laws mandating accessible multi-family dwellings apply when:

- the building was built for first occupancy after March 13, 1991; and
- has four or more units; and
- the unit is on the ground floor or in a building with an elevator.

To be accessible, housing must have doorways and hallways wide enough for a wheelchair, accessible routes to common areas (no steps, not too steep), light switches and thermostats in locations reachable from a sitting position, and kitchens and bathrooms large enough so that a person in a wheelchair can navigate the space.

For additional information about accessibility requirements and design, visit

www3.mo.gov/mohumanrights.

Protections for Families with Children

Your Right: Housing Choice

It is illegal to refuse to rent a dwelling to anyone because he or she has legal custody of a child under the age of 18 living in the home. The law protects pregnant women, families in the process of adopting a child, and legal guardians, such as foster parents or grandparents. Landlords are prohibited from discriminatory actions such as refusing to rent an upstairs unit to a family with small children. Communities that qualify as designated housing for older persons, however, may refuse tenancy to younger persons, including children.

Have you been told the apartment is too small for kids?

If a landlord refuses to rent to a family with multiple children due to "overcrowding" — claim that there are too many people per square foot — this may be a violation of your federal or state laws.

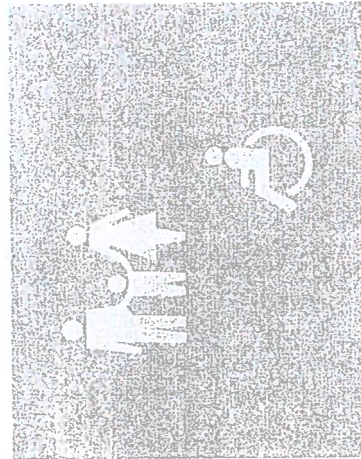
Alert!

Under the Missouri Human Rights Act, it is illegal to refuse to rent to a family with multiple children due to "overcrowding" — claim that there are too many people per square foot — this may be a violation of your federal or state laws.

HELP FOR HOUSING PROVIDERS

If you have questions about your legal responsibilities as a housing provider, MCHR can provide guidance to you and your staff about compliance with applicable laws.

To schedule training, contact the MCHR Training Institute at 816-889-2197.



Contact Information

Missouri Commission on Human Rights
 P.O. Box 1129
 Jefferson City, MO 65102-1129
www.labor.mo.gov/mohumanrights
573-751-3325
Toll Free: 877-781-4236

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
 Gateway Tower II, 4th Floor
 400 State Avenue
 Kansas City, KS 66101-2406
www.hud.gov
913-551-6958
Toll Free: 800-743-5323

Relay Missouri

If calling by home or cell phone, dial 711.
 All other callers should dial 800-735-2966.



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FAIR HOUSING LAWS



Protect Your Right To Live Where You Want



Missouri Commission on Human Rights

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