

ILLINOIS

Illinois Human Rights Act

What's prohibited?

- Refusing to sell or rent, or otherwise making unavailable or denying a dwelling because of protected status.
- Imposing different terms/conditions because of protected status.
- Making discriminatory statements or publishing discriminatory communications.
- Lying about the availability of a dwelling because of a person's protected status.
- Blockbusting – (i.e. statements that create alarm amongst members of a community to sell, lease, or solicit for sale, lease, etc. on the grounds of loss of value or fear due to the prospective entry into the community of members of a protected class.
- Retaliating against or intimidating a person exercising his/her fair housing rights.

What's not protected?

- Owner-occupied 4- unit (or fewer) buildings.
- Rental of room in private home.
- Rental of rooms to persons of the same sex.
- Religious organizations and private clubs.
- Reasonable occupancy limits.
- Housing for older persons (only exempt for family status).

Where to File:

The IL Department of Human Rights:
Email: IDHR.FairHousing@illinois.gov
Phone: (312) 814-6229 (general) or (800) 662-3942 (specifically for Discrimination in Housing).

USA/ FEDERAL

Fair Housing Act

What's prohibited?

- Refusing to sell or rent, or otherwise making unavailable or denying a dwelling because of protected status.
- Imposing different terms/conditions because of protected status.
- Making discriminatory statements or publishing discriminatory communications.
- Lying about the availability of a dwelling because of a person's protected status.
- Blockbusting - (i.e. statements that create alarm amongst members of a community to sell, lease, or solicit for sale, lease, etc. on the grounds of loss of value or fear due to the prospective entry into the community of members of a protected class.
- Retaliating against or intimidating a person exercising his/her fair housing rights.

What's not protected?

- Owner-occupied 4- unit (or fewer) buildings (but not exempted from discriminatory statements).
- Rental of single family house by owner (if he/she owns fewer than 3 houses).
- Religious organizations and private clubs.
- Reasonable occupancy limits.
- Housing for older persons (exempt for family status only).

Where to File:

Department of Housing and Urban Development: (800) 669-9777
OR TTY (800) 927-9275

A Summary of Fair Housing Rights

Chicago • Cook County
Illinois • United States



A service provided by:

The LUCHA Law Project

3541 W. North Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60647
(p): 773-276-5338 | (f): 773-276-5358
lucha@lucha.org | www.lucha.org



CHICAGO

Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance

What's prohibited?

- Refusing to sell or rent, or otherwise making unavailable or denying a dwelling because of protected status.
- Imposing different terms/conditions because of protected status.
- Making discriminatory statements or publishing discriminatory communications.
- Lying about the availability of a dwelling because of a person's protected status.
- Blockbusting (i.e. statements that create alarm amongst members of a community to sell, lease, or solicit for sale, lease, etc. on the grounds of loss of value or fear due to the prospective entry into the community of members of a protected class.

What's not protected?

- Religious organizations and private clubs.
- Reasonable occupancy limits.
- Housing for older persons (exempt for family status only).

Where to File:

The Chicago Commission on Human Relations
740 N. Sedgwick St., # 3
Chicago, IL 60654
(312) 744-4111

Other places to file include: The LUCHA Law Project, local bar associations, civil rights organizations (e.g. the NAACP, MALDEF, the Urban League, The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law), Legal Aid, & The John Marshall Law School Fair Housing Legal Clinic.

COOK COUNTY

Cook County Human Rights Ordinance

What's prohibited?

- Refusing to sell or rent, or otherwise making unavailable or denying a dwelling because of protected status.
- Imposing different terms/conditions because of protected status.
- Making discriminatory statements or publishing discriminatory communications.
- Lying about the availability of a dwelling because of protected status.
- Blockbusting (i.e. statements that create alarm amongst members of a community to sell, lease, or solicit for sale, lease, etc. on the grounds of loss of value or fear due to the prospective entry into the community of members of a protected class.
- Retaliating against or interfering with a person exercising his/her fair housing rights.
- Aiding, abetting, or compelling a person to violate the Act.

What's not protected?

- Religious organizations and private clubs.
- Reasonable occupancy limits.
- Housing for older persons (exempt for family status only).

Where to File:

The Cook County Commission on Human Rights
69 W. Washington, Suite 3040
Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 603-1100 or (312) 603-1101

Who is Protected?

Chicago: Race, color, sex, gender identity, age (over 40), religion, disability, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, military discharge status or source of income.

Cook County: Race, color, religion, age, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, military discharge status, source of income (now includes Section 8), and housing status.

Illinois: Race, color, religion, sex (including sexual harassment), national origin, ancestry, age (40 and over), order of protection status, marital status, sexual orientation (which includes gender-related identity), unfavorable military discharge, physical and mental disability, and familial status.

Federal: Race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, and handicap.

How Long to File?

Chicago: 180 days after the date that the discrimination occurred.

Cook County: 180 days after the date that the discrimination occurred.

Illinois: 180 days after the alleged discriminatory action, or within one year for a fair housing case.

Federal: One year from the date that the discrimination occurred for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

