

OUR AFFILIATES



NAACP
Central Delaware Branch #2028



www.IAmMeCorp.Org

For more information about I Am Me Inc. email us:
Info@IAmMeCorp.Org

If your a Business Owner looking to network or interested in a sponsorship package email us:
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www.IAmMeCorp.org



I AM ME INC.

FAIR HOUSING



Know Your Rights

I Am Me, Inc. wants to ensure you know you have rights against discrimination and the protections available to LGBTQ+ people under the Fair Housing Act. We also want you to know who can help if you feel you were discriminated against in Delaware.

What is the Fair Housing Act?

The Fair Housing Act is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination in any housing related transaction based on a person's membership in a protected class. Delaware's Fair Housing Act is a state law that is intended to eliminate discrimination in housing. Both laws make it illegal to discriminate in ANY housing related action because you belong to a protected class.

Who is Protected?

There are seven protected classes under federal law and six additional protected classes under state law. That means there are 13 protected classes in Delaware. The federal law protects people based on their race, color, religion, national origin, sex (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity), familial status and disability. Delaware's state law also prohibits discrimination against people based on their marital status, creed, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, and source of income.

Did You Know?

LGBTQ+ people are a protected class under fair housing laws. That means landlords or other housing providers cannot discriminate against you simply because of your sexual orientation or gender identity. Here are just a few examples of housing discrimination because of sex, which includes actual or perceived gender identity and sexual orientation:

A housing provider refuses to rent a house to a same sex couple

A tenant is evicted after the housing provider learns the tenant has dated persons of the same sex and identifies as bisexual

A same sex couple asks to see rental units throughout the city but is only shown rental units in a part of the city known for having many LGBTQ+ residents (known as 'steering')

A realtor refuses to show houses listed for sale to a potential buyer because the buyer is transgender

A building manager refuses to make repairs to a tenant's unit after seeing the resident's teenage daughter holding hands with her girlfriend because the manager does not agree with the daughter's "lifestyle"

A maintenance worker subjects a female tenant to pervasive harassment because she is lesbian. Additional discrimination occurs when she reports the harassment to the housing provider who fails to take action.

Harassment

Harassment is a common problem faced by LGBTQ+ people. The Fair Housing act protects you against harassment because you are a member of any protected class.

Sexual harassment, such as demands for sex or other sexual acts, is illegal. Other forms of harassment because you are a member of a protected class are also illegal. The law protects you against quid pro quo ("something for something") or hostile environment harassment, which includes any intimidating, hostile or offensive behavior by a housing provider, employee or other resident that makes it uncomfortable for you to live there. The housing provider must take action once they are aware of harassing behavior.

Other Protections

People with disabilities have extra protections under fair housing laws. This includes the right to request a reasonable accommodation (such as a support animal in a no-pets community) or a reasonable modification (such as a ramp for a person in a wheelchair). It is also unlawful for a landlord or housing provider to deny housing because of actual or perceived HIV/AIDS status or the presence of another disability.

Retaliating against someone for exercising their rights to fair housing is also illegal.

Exercise Your Civil Rights

If you believe you were discriminated against in violation of Fair Housing laws, you can file a complaint at no cost with the Delaware Division of Human Relations, which is the state agency that investigates and enforces laws against housing discrimination. Your complaint will be assigned to an investigator who will contact you to learn more.

You can file your complaint online at www.statehumanrelations.delaware.gov. Or, you can call toll-free at 1-877-54HUMAN (877-544-8626) to request a complaint form by mail.

I Am Me Inc. Is Here for You!!

If you're unsure or need support, feel free to contact I Am Me Inc. Housing Committee via email: Info@IAmMeCorp.org, Attn: Housing.

We've been trained on Fair Housing and can assist you.