



The Housing Rights Center's (HRC) mission is to actively support and promote freedom of residence through education, advocacy and litigation, to the end that all persons have the opportunity to secure the housing they desire and can afford, without discrimination based on their race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, familial status, marital status, disability, ancestry, age, source of income, or other characteristics protected by law.

Since 1968, HRC has identified and addressed the challenges of housing discrimination without interruption, and continues to expand and diversify its services and programs to meet the need and ever changing issue of fair housing.

HRC provides residents within the Los Angeles and Ventura Counties with free (1) housing discrimination investigation, (2) enforcement and impact litigation, (3) outreach and public education, and (4) landlord-tenant counseling.

Call HRC today to learn about your rights and responsibilities.

Housing Rights Center

**For Free Assistance,
Please Call:**

Toll Free: (800) 477-5977

TTY Users: (213) 201-0867

Fax: (213) 381-8555

www.housingrightscenter.org

Los Angeles Office

3255 Wilshire Blvd

Suite 1150

Los Angeles, CA 90010

Van Nuys Office

6320 Van Nuys Blvd., Ste. 311

Van Nuys, CA 91401

Pasadena Office

Jackie Robinson Center

1020 N. Fair Oaks Avenue

Pasadena, CA 91103

Phone: 626-791-0211

Walk-in Clinics are also conducted in Alhambra, Carson, East Los Angeles, Inglewood, Lancaster, Monterey Park, Palmdale & West Los Angeles.

Visit our website for clinic days & hours

Office locations are handicap accessible



**FAIR HOUSING
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**

Familial Status Discrimination



**Discrimination Against
Families with Children**

**For Assistance, Please Call
(800) 477-5977**

What is Familial Status Discrimination?

Under the Federal Fair Housing Act and the California Fair Employment & Housing Act, “familial status discrimination” is defined as unfair treatment by a housing provider because an individual has children.

These laws ensure that families with children have the right to live in their housing on an equal basis with other residents.

Also protected under “familial status” is any person who is pregnant or is in the process of securing legal custody of any individual who has not yet attained the age of 18 years.

Housing that meets the legal definition of senior housing or housing for older persons is exempt from the familial status provisions of the fair housing laws. This means that such housing can legally discriminate against families with children.

Please contact HRC if you are unsure whether the housing you are trying to secure is legally considered housing for older persons.

The Many Forms of Familial Status Discrimination

Selective Advertisements

It is illegal to state or suggest a preference for households without children in rental listings. Discriminatory statements such as “no children” or “adults preferred” serve to deter people with children from applying for a rental unit.

Illegal Inquiries

It is illegal to ask prospective tenants if they have children or are pregnant.

Refusal to Rent

It is illegal for a housing provider to refuse to rent a unit to a family with children, or to steer tenants with children to particular buildings, units or floors due to concerns about noise or safety.

Differential Terms

It is illegal to provide different terms of tenancy on families with children. Requiring families with children to sign a liability waiver as a condition of rental or charging families with children a higher security deposit is prohibited.

The Many Forms of Familial Status Discrimination

Occupancy Restrictions

Reasonable occupancy limits may be set, but limits which effectively prevent a parent from living with their children are potentially illegal.

A limit of one person per bedroom, for example, has been found to discriminate against families with children because it is so restrictive that it effectively excludes even very small families.

Restrictive Rules

It is illegal for a housing provider to adopt, publish or enforce rules that limit the ability of children to use or enjoy their housing or to enforce property rules against families only. Not allowing children to use the pool or limiting its use, can be a form of familial status discrimination.

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