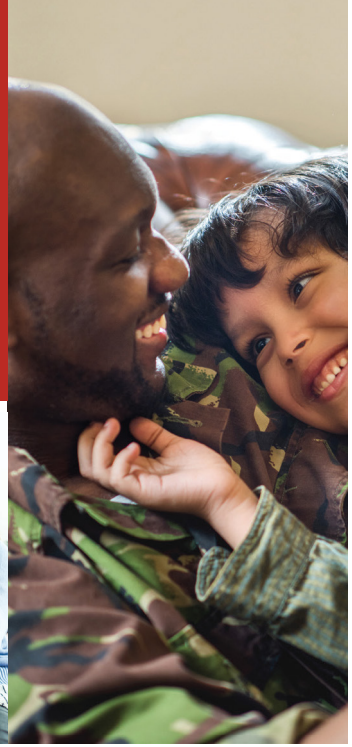
HOUSING DISCRIMINATION IS ILLEGAL.

"This apartment isn't set up for someone in a wheelchair and I don't want you making alterations."

"I heard your wife is pregnant. We don't want kids living here. You're going to have to move at the end of your lease."



"I can't understand your accent. I'm not comfortable renting to someone I can't communicate with."

In Cambridge it is against the law to deny anyone housing because of their:

- ✓ Disability
- ✓ Source of Income
  (for example: refusing to accept Section 8)
- ✓ Family Status/Marital Status
- ✓ Race/Color/National Origin
- ✓ Sex/Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity
- ✓ Religion
- ✓ Age (18 years or older)
- ✓ Military Status

Persons treated unfairly because of their membership in one or more of these groups may be protected under Fair Housing Laws.

If you or someone you know has experienced housing discrimination, call the Cambridge Human Rights Commission now at (617) 349-4396.

Human Rights Commission Cambridge

WE WILL:

- ✓ Investigate the complaint
- ✓ If we find discrimination, work for a voluntary settlement through mediation
- ✓ If necessary, hold a legal hearing after which we can award money damages, impose fines, or require other actions

And the Cambridge Human Rights Commission will try to make sure that what happened to you will not happen to anyone else!

WHAT IS HOUSING DISCRIMINATION?

☑ When any of these actions are taken because you are a member of a protected group:

MISREPRESENTING THE AVAILABILITY OF HOUSING: A landlord, owner, or real estate agent tells you that the apartment, house, or condominium is not available when it is.

REFUSALS TO RENT OR SELL: A landlord or real estate professional refuses to rent or sell to you.

DISCRIMINATION IN TERMS AND CONDITIONS: You are given different terms or rules than others.

DENIAL OF REASONABLE ACCOMODATIONS: A landlord refuses to allow an exception to a rule or policy that would give a person with a disability an equal opportunity to use and enjoy an apartment.

DISCRIMINATION BY LENDERS OR INSURERS: You are prevented from applying for or getting a mortgage, homeowners' insurance or renter's insurance.

Landlords, sellers and real estate agents must consider applicants on neutral criteria, such as the ability to pay. These criteria must be applied uniformly to all. Discrimination takes many forms.

Human Rights Commission Cambridge

IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO:

- Discourage or refuse to allow a person to apply for an available housing unit
- Falsely deny that housing is available for inspection, sale or rental
- Charge or quote a higher rental or sale price for a dwelling
- Refuse a unit to an applicant receiving public assistance (Including Section 8)
- Deny housing to a family with children due to the presence of lead paint
- Discriminate in advertising, written or oral statements
- Harass, coerce, or intimidate an individual because of their membership in a protected group
- Retaliate against someone for asserting their fair housing rights
- Deny a reasonable accomodation or treat someone unfavorably because of a disability
- Spread rumors of racial change to stimulate property sales
- Deny mortgage loans or insurance to specific neighborhoods

For the full text of the Cambridge Fair Housing Ordinance, visit our website: www.cambridgema.gov/HRC or call us at (617) 349-4396.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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