

Take Action

If you feel you've experienced any form of housing discrimination, please contact the Asian Law Caucus.

Your reports can be made anonymously or you can speak with us in person. We host monthly clinics where attendees can meet with a staff member. Please contact us for more information.

You can also contact the following agencies for assistance:

To file a Fair Housing complaint:

San Francisco Human Rights Commission

25 Van Ness Ave # 800
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 252-2500

For issues outside of San Francisco:

Project Sentinel

1490 El Camino Real
Santa Clara, CA 95050
Toll Free: (888) 324-7468
TTY (800) 735 -2929
info@housing.org
www.housing.org

What is the Asian Law Caucus?

The mission of Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus is to promote, advance, and represent the legal and civil rights of Asian, Arab, Muslim, Middle Eastern, South Asian, and Pacific Islander communities.

We provide legal assistance for issues related to housing discrimination, landlord/tenant disputes, evictions, immigration, employment, civil rights and national security.

We can provide legal information, legal representation, or a reference to another organization who may be able to assist you.

We can provide free legal services for some low-income San Francisco residents and seniors over 60.

Our staff can provide assistance in Arabic and other languages.

Call us at (415) 896-1701

We're open Monday through Friday

9:00am to 5:00pm



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: Fair Housing

An introduction to your right to access housing free from discrimination



ASIAN AMERICANS
ADVANCING JUSTICE
ASIAN LAW CAUCUS

Serving the community since 1972

55 Columbus Ave
San Francisco, CA 94111
Phone: (415) 896-1701
Fax: (415) 896-1702
www.advancingjustice-alc.org

Know Your Rights

Under federal and state Fair Housing/anti-discrimination laws, it is illegal for anyone involved with housing — including owners, property managers and staff, landlords, lenders, real estate agents, and others — to:

- Refuse to rent or sell a home
- Charge a higher rent or security deposit
- Discourage someone to or from homes in certain neighborhoods or parts of buildings
- Apply a different set of rules or criteria or otherwise treat people differently
- Harass or threaten a housing seeker, their friends, or family members

Based on these protected characteristics:

- *Disability*
- *Family Status**
- *Religion*
- *Sex*
- *Race*
- *Color*
- *National Origin*
- *Ancestry*
- *Sexual Orientation*
- *Gender Identity & Expression*
- *Marital status*
- *Source of income***
- *Age*

Or because of any *arbitrary* characteristic that has **no relation** to your ability to be a good tenant or be financially qualified to buy a home.

It is **illegal** for your housing provider to punish you for complaining about discrimination or for talking to a Fair Housing agency.

*Refers to families with children under the age of 18.

**This may include Section 8 vouchers depending on jurisdiction

Watch for Signs of Housing Discrimination

Some examples of discrimination may include:

- Rent or deposit quoted to you is higher than advertised
- Repairs are only made for tenants of one ethnicity or race
- The manager saying the unit has already been rented, but the ad is still posted
- The owner allowing only one tenant per bedroom in a large unit
- You're told "You wouldn't like it here," or "There's no place for your children to play"
- You're told you cannot rent a unit because you do not speak English
- The manager asks about your immigration status or requires you to be a U.S. citizen
- The owner won't grant a reasonable request related to a disability
- You're told that you don't qualify because your income does not come from a job
- You're not allowed to use a valid foreign passport for an application
- A property employee or neighbor sexually harasses you
- A neighbor harasses you because of your race, religion, or ethnicity
- You're being evicted because you're a victim of domestic violence
- The landlord threatens to report you to immigration

Prepare Yourself

No matter your situation, there are things that you can do to protect yourself if you suspect housing discrimination.

If you're looking for housing:

- Keep copies of rental or sales ads
- Get the name, title, and contact information for whomever you talked to
- Take notes when you call or visit a property
- Write down any application requirements
- Find out the availability of all units on the property
- Save emails, texts, or voicemails
- Ask witnesses for their names and phone numbers

If you're having trouble with your property manager or landlord:

- Immediately write down a description of important events and include times, dates, and witnesses
- Keep copies of any notices and rent receipts
- Make requests and respond to notices in writing and keep copies of everything
- Talk to your neighbors about their experiences
- Get the contact information for any neighbors who are moving out

If you have any concerns, please contact us right away. We accept anonymous tips and questions about housing discrimination.