

**If you feel you are being treated unfairly, take the following steps:**

1. Keep record of all meetings and phone calls including the person's name, title, phone number, meeting times and dates.
2. Keep record of what happened and what was said by participants and, if at all possible, have a witness to these meetings.
3. Save all receipts, applications, leases, business cards, brochures, and any other document you were given.

This brochure is made available through funding secured from the Ohio Development Services Agency, Office of Community Development.



Residents in Mahoning County townships, cities, including Struthers and Campbell, and villages should use the contact information below, if you suspect anyone of violating the Fair Housing Act.

**The Board of  
Mahoning County  
Commissioners**

Local Fair Housing Coordinator  
Annemarie DeAscentis  
330-740-8799 ext. 2

Or

The Ohio Civil Rights Commission  
Akron Regional Office  
1-888-278-7101  
330-643-3100  
330-643-1488 (TTY)

**A COMMUNITY GUIDE  
TO KNOWING YOUR RIGHTS**

# **FAIR HOUSING**

## **It's the Law**

The Fair Housing Act (Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968) introduced meaningful federal enforcement mechanisms. It outlaws: Refusal to sell or rent a dwelling to any person because of race, color, disability, religion, sex, familial status, or national origin.

Mahoning County Ohio  
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## Introduction:

Housing discrimination is not only illegal; it contradicts the principles of freedom and opportunity we treasure as Americans. Equal access to opportunities for rental housing and homeownership is the cornerstone of federal housing policy of the nation. Mahoning County, along with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, is committed to ensuring that everyone is treated equally in search of a place to call home.

## What is the Fair Housing Act?

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended and ORC 4112; prohibit housing discrimination in the State of Ohio because of:

- ✓ Race or Color
- ✓ National Origin
- ✓ Religion
- ✓ Ancestry
- ✓ Sex
- ✓ Familial Status
- ✓ Disability
- ✓ Military Status

## What is Prohibited In the sale or rental of housing?

No one may take any of the following actions based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, national origin, ancestry or military status:

- ❖ Refuse to rent or sell housing
- ❖ Make housing unavailable
- ❖ Set different terms, conditions or privileges of a dwelling
- ❖ Provide different housing services or facilities
- ❖ Falsely deny that housing is available for inspection, sale or rental

## What is prohibited in Mortgage Lending?

- ❖ Refuse to make a mortgage loan
- ❖ Fail to provide information regarding loans
- ❖ Impose different terms or conditions on a loan
- ❖ Discriminate in appraising property
- ❖ Refuse to purchase a loan; or
- ❖ Set different terms or conditions for purchasing a loan

## What if you have a disability?

If you or someone associated with you has a physical or mental disability that substantially limits one or more major life activities, your landlord may not:

- Refuse to allow you to make reasonable modifications to the dwelling or common use areas, at your expense, if necessary for the disable person to fully use the housing. In some cases, if the housing is federally funded, the provider may have to pay.
- Refuse to make reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices, or services if necessary for the disabled person to use the housing on an equal basis with non-disabled persons.

