

APRIL IS FAIR HOUSING MONTH!



Vol 3

Bowling Green Human Rights Commission,
Inc.

Mission Statement and History

The Bowling Green Human Rights Commission was established by a City Ordinance on August 1, 1966 with a mission to promote fair treatment and equal opportunity regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, age (over 40), sex or disability, and familiar status. The commission is a nonprofit agency committed to serving the community through advocating for the rights of the protected classes.

The Commission dedicates itself to opening doors of opportunity, eliminating discrimination, and promoting positive human relations within the community.

OUR THEME FOR APRIL 2022:

“OPENING DOORS IS THE KEY TO FAIR HOUSING”



Race, Color, Religion, National Origin, Sex, Disability
and Familiar Status

The Bowling Green Human Rights Commission would like to invite you to our annual Fair Housing Month event “OPENING DOORS IS THE KEY TO FAIR HOUSING”

The event will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. ~ 2:30 p.m. at Mariah’s Banquet Hall

Guest Speakers:

Brent Childers, Director of Neighborhood Services Department for the City of Bowling Green

Rod Goodman, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity

Heather Hawkins, FirstBank Mortgage Banker

There will be food, door prizes and valuable information

“The event is funded by Community Development Block Grant”

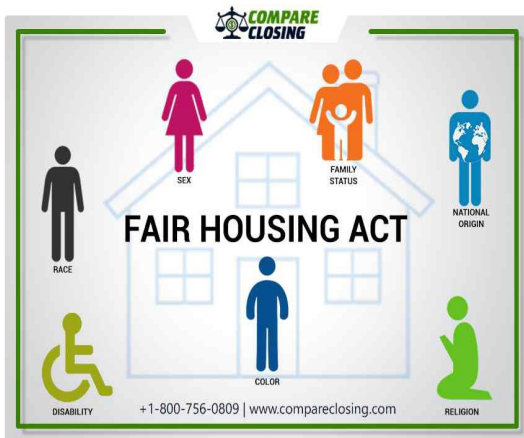
The History of Fair Housing:

On April 11, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which was meant as the following-up to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The 1968 Act on previous acts and prohibited discrimination concerning the sale, rental, and financing of housing based on race, religion, national origin, sex, (and as amended) handicap and family status. Title VIII of the Act is known as the **Fair Housing Act (1968)**. The enactment of the federal Fair Housing Act on April 11, 1968 came only after a long journey. However, when Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on April 04, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson utilized this national tragedy to urge for the bill’s speedy Congressional approval. Since the 1966 open housing marches in Chicago, Dr. King’s name had been closely associated with the fair housing legislation.

President Johnson viewed the Act as a fitting memorial to the man's work, and wished to have the Act passed prior to Dr. King's funeral in Atlanta.

Another significant issue during this time period was growing casualty list from Vietnam.

The deaths in Vietnam fell heaviest upon young, poor African-American and Hispanic infantrymen. However, on the home front, these men's families could not purchase or rent homes in certain residential developments on account of their race or national origin.



DIFFERENT NATIONAL ORIGINS SAME FAIR HOUSING RIGHTS!

Examples of Discrimination

John, who is a Black man, speaks to a prospective landlord on the phone about leasing an apartment. On the phone, the landlord seems eager to rent to John, but when John meets with the landlord in person to fill out an application, the landlord's attitude is entirely different. A few days later, John receives a letter saying that his application was denied because of a negative reference from his current landlord. John is surprised because he never had problems with his landlord, and his landlord swears she was never contacted for a reference. John suspects that the real reason he was denied the apartment was because he is Black, so John files a complaint with HUD. HUD investigates and it turns out John is right – the landlord's files show a pattern of discrimination because of race and color.

Why does this violate the Fair Housing Law?

This is unlawful under the state and federal Fair Housing law based on race and color.

Jane is a Muslim woman who wears a hijab. Jane walks into the leasing office for a large apartment building because she saw a sign in the building's window advertising several available units. Jane introduces herself to the leasing officer, who immediately says there are no units available. Jane asks to be put on the waiting list, but she never received a call. Jane files a complaint with HUD because she suspects that the leasing officer does not want to rent to her because she is Muslim. HUD investigates and it turns out Jane is right – other employees of the building give HUD information that substantiates Jane's claim of religious discrimination.

Why does this violate the Fair Housing Law?

This is unlawful under the state and federal Fair Housing Law based on religion.

John recently moved to the United States from Mexico. One day, John sees that there is a new tenant in the apartment next to his, so he welcomes her to the building. John's neighbor comments on how nice everyone in the building seems, especially the building manager who offered to waive her security deposit because she seems like a good person. John is surprised because the building manager was short-tempered with him and said that John's accent made him hard to understand. John later asks around and finds out that the building manager has waived fees and deposits for other tenants he likes, but not for him or other persons from Mexico. John files a complaint with HUD because providing different terms and conditions to tenants because of national origin is illegal discrimination.

Why does this violate the Fair Housing Law?

This is unlawful under the state and federal Fair Housing law based on National Origin

Jane has a Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8), but one month she falls behind on her portion of the

rent. When Jane asks her landlord if he will give her a few more days, her landlord says yes but only if she will go out with him. Feeling she has no choice, Jane says yes.

Over the next few days, Jane's landlord sends her sexually explicit text messages even though Jane tells him to stop. Jane's landlord tells her that if she does not go out with him again he is going to evict her and she will lose her voucher. Jane files a complaint with HUD because **sexual harassment** is a form of sex discrimination.

Why does this violate the Fair Housing Law?

This is unlawful under the state and federal Fair Housing based on **Sex**.

John, a person with a disability who uses a wheelchair, views a condominium he is hoping to purchase in a new multistory building. When John arrives, he finds there are no accessible parking spaces in the building's parking lot. When John tries to enter the unit, his wheelchair can barely fit through the door and he bangs his arms on the way in. Inside the unit, the thermostat and light switches are all too high for him to reach. The building has a fitness room, but he cannot look at it because the only way to get to the fitness room is to go up steps. John files a complaint with HUD because failing to comply with accessibility requirements is a form of disability discrimination.

Why does this violate the Fair Housing Law?

This is unlawful under the state and federal Fair Housing Law based on **disability**

John has three teenage children. John's building has a patio with picnic tables, and one day John's children decide to have lunch there with some of their friends. The next day, John receives a notice from the homeowners association informing him that the building rules say that the patio is for adult-use only and that he needs to make sure his children do not violate the building rules.

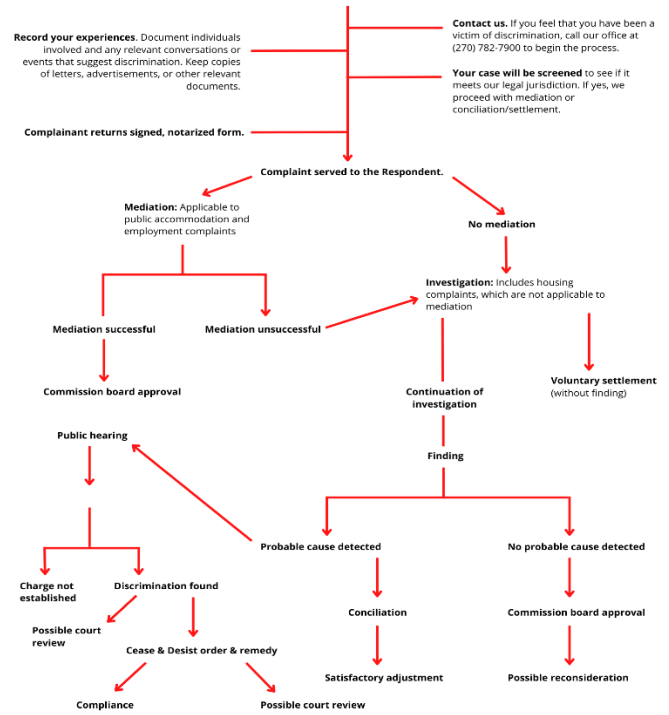
Why does this violate the Fair Housing Law?

If the owner rents to persons of all age groups (i.e. does not specialize in seniors, etc.), then this would be **discrimination based on familial status**.

IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU HAVE BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST!

HERE ARE SOME STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO FILE A COMPLAINT

Understanding the Filing Complaint Process



Complaint Agencies

Bowling Green Human Rights Commission
 bghumanrightscom@gmail.com
 270-782-7900

Lexington Fair Housing Council
 Lexingtonfairhousing.com
 859-971-8067

HUD Housing Urban Development
 HUD.gov/1.800.669.9777

Kentucky Commission on Human Rights
 kchr.mail.@ky.gov