



FAIR HOUSING PROTECTIONS

Housing Status

QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE PROTECTIONS AND FILING COMPLAINTS

If you have questions about these protections or if you may have experienced discrimination in Housing in Pittsburgh, please call, email, or message us using one of the methods below.

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PROTECTED CLASSES UNDER THE PITTSBURGH CITY CODE'S UNLAWFUL HOUSING PRACTICES

This protection is designed to remove barriers to housing for individuals who, at some point, had no place to call home. Assumptions and prejudices associated with homelessness should not interfere with a person's ability to find new housing. Anyone could become homeless at any time due to circumstances outside their control.

Therefore, as of October 2025, housing providers may not discriminate against persons because of their "Housing Status" within the City of Pittsburgh.

The new protected class of "**Housing Status**" means: "The actual or perceived type of housing in which an individual resides, or previously resided in, whether publicly or privately owned; or the status of not having a fixed residence, including the status of living on the streets or in a homeless shelter or similar temporary residence; or currently or formerly living in transitional, temporary, or shelter housing; or lacking a residential rental housing history in whole or in part."

Housing Status overlaps with other protected classes like race, familial status, survivor of domestic violence, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and more. The goal is to give housing choice to everyone regardless of their membership in a protected class.





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WHO MUST COMPLY WITH THESE PROTECTED CLASS PROVISIONS?

The following is a non-exhaustive list of housing providers who must comply with the housing status protection, and other fair housing laws:

- Individuals; Corporations, Partnerships, Limited Liability Companies (“LLCs”)
- Other Business Entities
- Property Owners and Property Managers
- Landlords and Persons Who Sublet Their Apartment(s) (“Sublessors”)
- Homeowners Associations and Condominium Associations;
- Persons Who are Selling Their Property or Who are Advertising Property
- Lenders, such as Banks and Mortgage Brokerage Services
- Insurance Providers
- Realtors and Real Estate Agents
- Home Appraisers



The following is a non-exhaustive list of unlawful acts that may not be done based on someone's current or former Housing Status:

- Refuse to rent, sell, insure, or finance the purchase of housing, which includes but is not limited to an outright refusal and a refusal to negotiate terms
 - “I don’t rent to people who can’t keep a roof over their head.”
- Make housing unavailable or falsely deny that housing is available
 - “Sorry, I just rented that house to someone else,” but the dwelling is still available.
- Steer someone to and/or away from particular areas, neighborhoods, or communities
 - “You may feel more comfortable in a place with people like you.”
- Set different terms, conditions, and/or privileges on the terms of sale or rental
 - Higher security deposit, monthly rent, or fees than others; requiring a co-signer for only them
- Use different qualification criteria for sale or rental
 - Requiring a higher credit score, income, or additional references
- Provide different services, privileges and/or facilities
 - Disallowing use of a community room, laundry facilities,
- Fail to make repairs, delay in making repairs, and/or make inadequate repairs
 - Assuming the tenant can go without repairs because they have experienced worse
- Make, print, and/or publish discriminatory statements
 - Advertising a “no drama” building
- Harass someone, including intimidation, coercion, or making threats
 - “I’ll let you live here, but one wrong move and you’re gone!”