The Prince William County Human Rights Ordinance promotes and enforces local, state and federal fair housing throughout the County. The County’s Human Rights Office investigates complaints for protected classes — race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, marital, familial status, gender identity, sexual orientation and source of income.

Some examples of discrimination are:

- “No kids” policies.
- Evicting people of color.
- Discrimination against individuals who need support animals.
- Discrimination against individuals in wheelchairs.
- Discrimination against interracial couples and same-sex couples.
- Refusing to rent to you because of your age (too young or too old). Note: Senior living communities are exempt from this policy.
- Gender discrimination.
- Refusing to rent to individuals with AIDS.
- Refusing to rent to mentally challenged individuals.
- Refusing to rent to pregnant women.

If you think your rights have been violated, contact our office with the following information:

- Your name and address.
- The name and address of the person you are complaining against (the respondent).
- The address or other identification of the housing involved.
- The violation event that caused you to believe your rights were violated.
- The date(s) of the alleged violation.

pwcva.gov/humanrights
PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW
THE FAIR HOUSING ACT

The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing because of:
- Race or Color.
- National Origin.
- Religion.
- Sex.
- Familial status (including children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians; pregnant woman and people securing custody of children under 18).
- Disability.
- Sexual Orientation.
- Gender Identity.
- Marital Status.
- Source of Income.
- Status as a Veteran.

The Prince William County Human Rights Commission enforces:
- The Federal Fair Housing Act.
- The Virginia Fair Housing Act.
- The Human Rights Ordinance (Chapter 10.1).

If you feel you have been discriminated against please contact the Human Rights Office.

Everyone has a right to fair housing — the right to live where you choose and to own a home with dignity without fear of discrimination.

WHAT HOUSING IS COVERED?

The Fair Housing Act covers most housing. In some circumstances, the Act exempts owner-occupied buildings with no more than four units, single-family housing sold or rented without the use of a broker and housing operated by organizations and private clubs that limit occupancy to members.

WHAT ACTIONS ARE PROHIBITED FOR PROTECTED CLASSES?

- Refusal to rent or sell housing.
- Refusal to negotiate for housing.
- Making housing unavailable.
- Otherwise denying a dwelling.
- Setting different terms, conditions or privileges for sale or rental of a dwelling.
- Providing different housing services or facilities.
- Falsely denying that housing is available for inspection, sale or rental.
- Persuading or trying to persuade homeowners to sell or rent dwellings for profit by suggesting that people of a particular race, religion, sex, etc. have moved or are about to move into the neighborhood. This is often referred to as “blockbusting.”
- Denying any person access to, membership or participation in, any organization, facility or service (such as a multiple listing service) related to the sale or rental of dwellings, or discriminating against any person in the terms or conditions of such access, membership or participation.