



Spring 2023

Prince William County Human Rights Office Newsletter

# FOCUS

## ON HUMAN RIGHTS

### APRIL IS FAIR HOUSING AWARENESS MONTH

**DID YOU KNOW ?** Most Fair Housing complaints involve disability discrimination, racial discrimination, and familial discrimination. A common basis is the denial of reasonable accommodations for service animal requests.

**DID YOU KNOW ?** Source of Funds includes any source that lawfully provides funds to or on behalf of a renter or buyer of housing, including any assistance, benefit, or subsidy program. See [Source of Funds Guidance](#).

The Prince William County Human Rights Commission recently passed a resolution declaring the month of April as Fair Housing Month. The resolution notes that individuals in Prince William County, the 10th most diverse county in the nation, have the right to choose where to live without discrimination. See [PWC HRC Resolution](#).

#### FAIR HOUSING REMINDERS:

The Federal Fair Housing Act protects people from discrimination when they are renting or purchasing a home, securing a mortgage, seeking housing assistance, or engaging in other housing-related activities. The federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, (including sexual orientation and gender identity), familial status, and disability.

The Virginia Fair Housing Act adds to the federally protected classes the following: gender identity, sexual orientation, military status, and source of income.

Chapter 10.1, the Prince William Human Rights Act adds marital status to the above-protected classes. These three laws protect a significantly expanded group of protected classes.

All these laws apply to homeowners, landlords, tenants, real estate agents, appraisers, credit institutions, insurance companies, homeowners' associations, property managers, builders, and other housing providers.

#### Examples of Housing Discrimination would be:

- No children policies Evicting people of color.
- Discrimination against people who need support animals.
- Discrimination against people who use wheelchairs.
- Discrimination against interracial and same-sex couples.
- Refusing to rent because of age.
- Gender discrimination.
- Refusing to rent to people with AIDS.
- Refusing to rent to mentally challenged people.
- Refusing to rent to pregnant women.

Visit the Prince William County Human Rights Office at [pwcva.gov/humanrights](http://pwcva.gov/humanrights) for more information on fair housing laws and ordinances.

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