



THE EQUAL RIGHTS CENTER

We've been advancing civil rights for over a quarter century.
Help us protect them for the future.

The Equal Rights Center (ERC) is a national non-profit civil rights organization dedicated to promoting equal opportunity in housing, employment, public accommodations, and government services through education, research, testing, counseling, advocacy and enforcement.

Know Your Rights

The Fair Housing Act, passed in 1968, was established to protect certain classes from housing discrimination. These include race, national origin, sex, religion, and disability.

Unfortunately, LGBT housing rights are not federally protected. Currently, 16 jurisdictions prohibit discrimination on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, and another four jurisdictions protect against Sexual Orientation but not Gender Identity.

In these jurisdictions, it is **illegal** for someone to:

- Refuse to sell or rent based on a protected class
- Advertise discriminatory preferences
- Misrepresent availability
- Harass, threaten, intimidate, or coerce
- Retaliate against someone exercising his or her fair housing rights

Anyone who has been harmed as a result of discrimination in a housing activity may file a complaint under one or more of the protected classes.

The ERC Impact

We believe everyone has the right to choose where to live, regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity.



State and Local Laws

Jurisdictions that currently prohibit housing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity:

California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington.

Jurisdictions that currently prohibit housing discrimination based on sexual orientation but not gender identity:

Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Wisconsin.

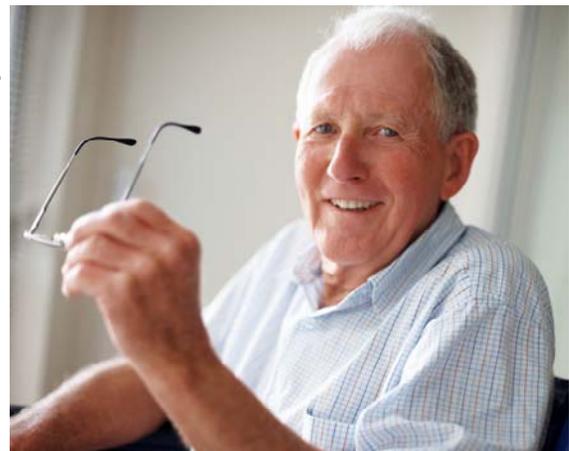


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7 Steps to Protect your Rights

- Identify what potentially discriminatory behavior occurred, and what potential protected classes apply.
- What do you hope to have happen, and what are the best options to achieve that?
- Understand that Fair Housing Laws may be in place to protect you.
- Determine who should receive your request – ERC is there to review your options with you.
- Be persistent – Don't ignore potentially discriminatory behavior or "sweep it under the rug."
- Keep all documentation – a paper trail is always a good way to remember the dates and names of persons you spoke with as well as the details of the conversation.
- Know when it's time to get outside assistance – again, the ERC is here to help.



How to Find Help

If you feel you have experienced discrimination, call the Equal Rights Center (ERC) today!
All ERC services are provided free of charge and are fully confidential.

File a complaint:

- Call the ERC directly at (202) 234-3062, or
- Complete the ERC Complaint Form online at www.equalrightscenter.org/complaint.

Stay informed by becoming an ERC member:

- Call the ERC directly at (202) 234-3062, or
- Complete the ERC Membership Form online at www.equalrightscenter.org/