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## Housing Opportunities for Families

Unless a building or community qualifies as housing for older persons, it may not discriminate based on familial status. That is, it may not discriminate against families in which one or more children under 18 live with:

- A parent
- A person who has legal custody of the child or children or
- The designee of the parent or legal custodian, with the parent or custodian's written permission.

Exemption: Housing for older persons is exempt from the prohibition against familial status discrimination if:

- The HUD Secretary has determined that it is specifically designed for and occupied by elderly persons under a Federal, State or local government program.
- It is occupied solely by persons who are 62 or older.
- It houses at least one person who is 55 or older in at least 80 percent of the occupied units, and adheres to a policy that demonstrates an intent to house persons who are 55 or older.

## Further Assistance

Complaints alleging discrimination in housing may be filed with the nearest office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), or by calling HUD's Discrimination Hotline at 1-800-669-9777, 1-800-927-9275 (TTY).

For information and publications on fair housing, call HUD's Distribution Center at 1-800-767-7468. Contact HUD on the internet at <http://www.hud.gov>.

City of Orange Fair Housing Officer: Tom Reynolds. He can be reached at Phone: 409-988-7399 or [treynolds@orangetx.org](mailto:treynolds@orangetx.org).



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**FAIR HOUSING**  
Equal Opportunity for All



**EQUAL HOUSING  
OPPORTUNITY**

**City of Orange**

**P.O. Box 520**

**Orange, TX 77630**

**409-882-1070**

# The Fair Housing Act

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The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in the sale, lease, or rental of housing and any aspect of credit application 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 women and people securing custody of children under 18)

The home seller, the home seeker, the real estate professional, and lender all have rights and responsibilities under the law.

## 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 with the use of a real estate broker, housing that is intended for those 55 and over, and housing operated by organizations and private clubs that limit occupancy to members.

## WHAT IS PROHIBITED?

In the Sale and Rental of Housing: No one may take any of the following actions based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status or handicap (disability):

- Refuse to rent or sell housing
- Refuse to negotiate for housing
- Make housing unavailable
- Deny a dwelling
- Set different terms, conditions or privileges for sale or rental of a dwelling
- Provide different housing services or facilities
- Falsely deny that housing is available for inspections, sale or rental or
- For profit, persuade owners to sell or rent (blockbusting)

## IN MORTGAGE LENDING

No one may take any of the following actions based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status or handicap (disability):

- Refuse to make a mortgage loan
- Refuse to provide information regarding loans
- Impose different terms or condition on a loan, such as different interest rates, points or fees
- Discriminate in appraising property
- Refuse to purchase a loan
- Set different terms or conditions for purchasing a loan.

Other Protections: It is illegal for anyone to:

- Threaten, coerce, intimidate or interfere with anyone exercising a fair housing right or assisting others who exercise that right.
- Advertise or make any statement that indicates a limitation or preference based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status or handicap (disability). This prohibition against discriminatory advertising applies to single-family and owner-occupied housing that is otherwise exempt from the Fair Housing Act.

## ADDITIONAL PROTECTION IF YOU HAVE A DISABILITY INCLUDING:

- A physical or mental disability (including hearing, mobility and visual impairments, cancer, chronic mental illness, AIDS, AIDS-Related Complex, and mental retardation) that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

- A record of such a disability or

If so, your landlord may not:

- Refuse to let you make reasonable modifications to your dwelling or common use areas, at your expense, if necessary for the disabled person to use the housing. (When reasonable, the landlord may permit changes only if you agree to restore the property to its original condition when you move.)

- Refuse to make reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices or services if necessary for the disabled person to use the housing.