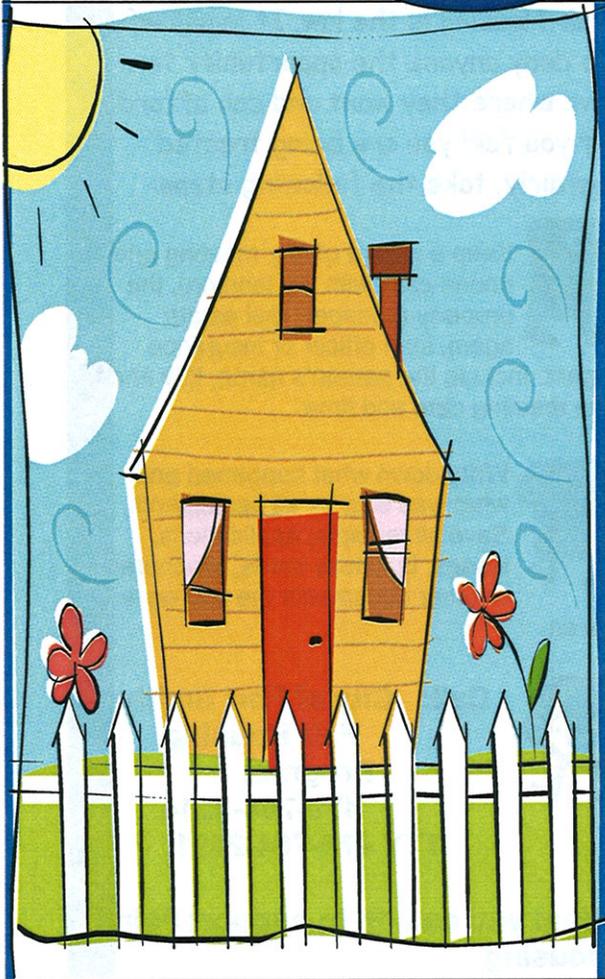


FAIR

HOUSING

PROGRAM



How Do YOU Recognize Discrimination?

Be suspicious when you hear statements like...

-  "I rented that apartment after you called."
-  "I don't really want all those changes, a ramp, grab bars- that's too much."
-  "This building is for adults only."
-  "We can't have mentally retarded people living here. Who will take care of them? It will make the neighbors uncomfortable."
-  "Do you think you can afford this neighborhood?"
-  "The owner just took the house off the market."
-  "We just can't seem to get an appointment to show you the house."
-  "There is a problem with the appraisal."
-  "We have a minimum mortgage amount; we don't make loans under \$30,000."
-  "A two bedroom apartment/home is too small for two children."

A CW&T Design



A Community Guide to Fair Housing

The City of Fort Smith

FAIR

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HOUSING



This brochure was made available by funding from the Community Development Grant Program through the local Fair Housing Program

Fair Housing is your Right

Fair Housing is a right protected by federal and state laws. Fair Housing means you may freely choose a place to live without regard to your race, color, religion, sex, national origin or because you are disabled or have children in your family.

Housing Discrimination is rarely blatant. It is often disguised with a handshake and a smile. Your fair housing rights are violated when you are prevented from doing the following because of your race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or family status:



Viewing or renting an apartment.



Viewing or purchasing a home.



Applying for or securing a home loan.



Purchasing homeowners or renters insurance.

The City of Fort Smith Fair Housing Program



is here to help you by- Answering your housing questions, assisting you in finding the right answers, providing education on your rights and responsibilities and assisting you in filing a

fair housing complaint. The Fair Housing Program offers assistance to everyone and there is no fee for this service.



479-784-2214

(Voice Mail Box- Response Within 48 Hours)

TTY 479-784-2491

Or

Department of Housing and Urban Development

1-800-669-9777

TDD 1-800-927-9275

FAIR

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Fair Housing is the law. It is unlawful to deny anyone the opportunity to live where they want and can afford. If you feel you are being treated unfairly, take the following steps:



1. Keep a record of any meeting and phone calls with the landlord, the property manager, real estate agent, loan officer or insurance agent. Include the person's name, title and the meeting date and time.



2. Write down what happened and what was said by all participants. Save all receipts, applications, leases, business cards, brochures, or other documents the you were given.



3. Call: City of Fort Smith Fair Housing Program
479-784-2214
TTY 479-784-2491

What you can do to support Fair Housing

Support your local fair housing group. Refer those with fair housing complaints to the housing program for assistance. Hold your elected officials and other officers accountable for supporting fair housing. Encourage your friends and neighbors to support fair housing.