



WORKING TO END HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

**FAIR HOUSING
LEGAL SUPPORT
CENTER & CLINIC
UIC JOHN MARSHALL
LAW SCHOOL**



UIC JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL FAIR HOUSING LEGAL SUPPORT CENTER & CLINIC

UIC John Marshall Law School **Fair Housing Legal Support Center** is one of the nation's premier institutions for fair housing education and outreach. Established in 1992, the Center educates and trains the public on fair housing law and provides legal assistance to private and public organizations and persons seeking to eliminate discriminatory housing practices.

Among its many activities, the Center:

- Provides training and speakers on fair housing, fair lending, and testing nationwide.
- Conducts special studies such as discrimination in senior housing segregation in Chicago that may be funded by private foundations or government entities.
- Contracts special projects to produce resource materials or conduct Analysis of Impediments for municipalities.
- Produces and distributes brochures, primers, and other materials to educate laypersons, attorneys, and practitioners about fair housing law.
- Files *amicus curiae* briefs in important fair housing cases.
- Presents an annual national conference in Chicago on current issues and new developments in fair housing law and enforcement.
- Conducts an annual three-day litigation skills training for attorneys.

The **Fair Housing Legal Clinic** is devoted exclusively to training law students on fair housing enforcement. The law students assist persons in receiving and retaining the housing of their choice, free from discrimination, thereby building and strengthening neighborhoods and communities.

WHAT IS FAIR HOUSING LAW?

The federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status (families with children under 18), or disability (physical or mental).

In addition to the Fair Housing Act, there are state, local, county, and city laws that expand the protected classes. In Illinois, protected classes include military status or military discharge status, marital status, sexual orientation, orders of protection in domestic abuse cases, and age.

Local laws may include additional protected classes such as child support, alimony, TANF or Public Aid, food stamps, SSI benefits, and unemployment compensation. In Cook County and the city of Chicago, holders of Housing Choice Vouchers (formerly Section 8) are protected from discrimination.

SIGNS OF DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination Based on Race

If you contact a property manager and are told that a unit is no longer available, but you discover that it is available for someone of a different race, discrimination may be present.

Discrimination Based on National Origin

If you contact a property manager and are told that a unit is no longer available, but you discover that it is available for someone of a different nationality, discrimination may be present.

Discrimination Against Families with Children

If a property manager discovers you have children and responds with, "I do not like to rent to people with children," or "This building is not suitable for children," discrimination may be present.

Discrimination Based on Disability

If you or someone living with you has a disability and the property manager or owner refuses to allow you to make a reasonable modification or accommodation that would allow you to live there, discrimination may be present.



Discrimination Based on Receipt of Rental or Public Assistance

In Chicago and Cook County, if someone refuses to rent to you because you receive Section 8 or other public assistance, discrimination may be present.

WHAT YOU CAN DO IF YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE BEEN A VICTIM OF DISCRIMINATION

Contact UIC John Marshall Fair Housing Clinic. The Clinic will conduct an intake to determine if there has been a violation of the law.

If there is a claim to be made, the Clinic will accept your case, evaluate the best strategy to resolve the matter, and may file a complaint on your behalf.

The Clinic is partially funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Services are provided to low income individuals who otherwise would not have access to legal representation without cost to such individuals.

If you have questions regarding your housing rights, have a complaint, or wish to arrange a consultation, please contact:

**UIC John Marshall Law School
Fair Housing Legal Support Center & Clinic
300 S. State Street
Chicago, IL 60604**

Telephone: 312.786.2267

Fax: 312.427.2236

**Email: fairhousingclinic@jmls.edu
www.jmls.edu/fairhousing**



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