

Do you suspect you've experienced housing discrimination in the greater Washington, DC area?

## THE ERC MAY BE ABLE TO HELP BY:



### *Conducting civil rights testing:*

Trained civil rights testers pose as potential tenants or buyers to find out if and how discrimination is occurring.



Assisting with filing a housing discrimination complaint with HUD or state/local agencies.



### *Submitting reasonable accommodation and modification requests:*

Helping to draft and/or submit reasonable accommodation or modification requests to housing providers on behalf of individuals with disabilities.



Providing referrals to other local resources.

If you believe that you have experienced housing discrimination, you can call us at **(202) 234-3062** or email **[fairhousing@equalrightscenter.org](mailto:fairhousing@equalrightscenter.org)**.

**ALL OF OUR SERVICES ARE FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL.**



The Equal Rights Center (ERC) is a civil rights organization that identifies and seeks to eliminate unlawful and unfair discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations in its home community of greater Washington DC and nationwide.

### THE EQUAL RIGHTS CENTER

11 Dupont Circle N.W., Suite 450  
Washington, D.C. 20036

**Main - 202.234.3062**

**Toll Free - 866.719.4372**

**Relay 711**

**[www.equalrightscenter.org](http://www.equalrightscenter.org)**  
**[fairhousing@equalrightscenter.org](mailto:fairhousing@equalrightscenter.org)**

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HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED  
**HOUSING**  
**DISCRIMINATION?**

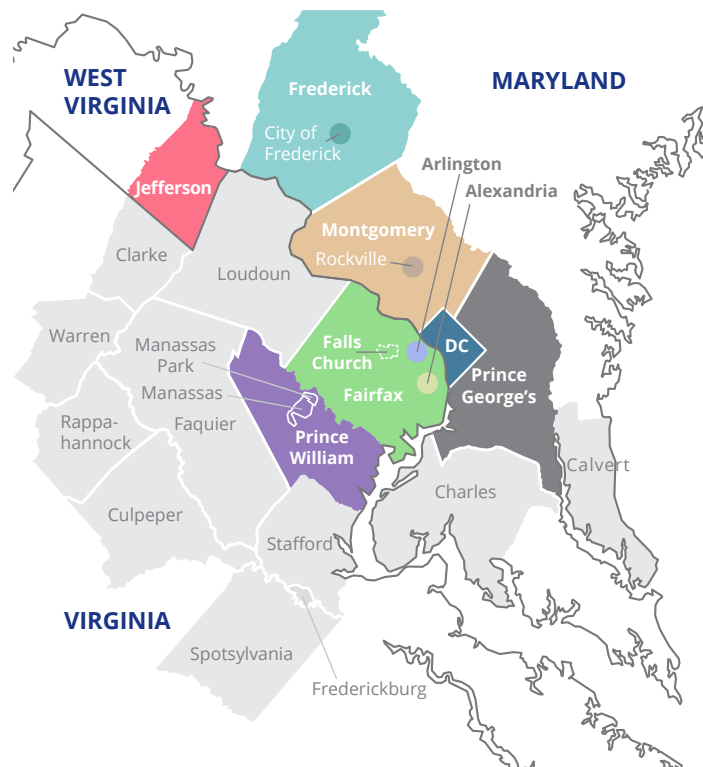


## PROTECTED CLASS

The Fair Housing Act and many state & local laws prohibit housing discrimination on the basis of your membership in a protected class. The federal Fair Housing Act protects against housing discrimination on the basis of your race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, and familial status. In **Maryland**, there are additional statewide protections for marital status, sexual orientation, and gender identity. In **Virginia**, elderliness (55+) is protected.

### Locally Protected Classes

<div></div> Race	<div></div> Age
<div></div> Color	<div></div> Ancestry
<div></div> Religion	<div></div> Family Responsibilities
<div></div> National Origin	<div></div> Gender Identity
<div></div> Sex	<div></div> Presence of Children
<div></div> Disability	<div></div> Source of Income
<div></div> Marital Status	<div></div> Marital Status
<div></div> Age	<div></div> Sexual Orientation
<div></div> Personal Appearance	<div></div> Gender Identity
<div></div> Sexual Orientation	<div></div> Age
<div></div> Gender Identity or expression	<div></div> Ancestry
<div></div> Family responsibilities	<div></div> Presence of children
<div></div> Political affiliation	<div></div> Sexual Orientation
<div></div> Matriculation	<div></div> Age
<div></div> Familial Status	<div></div> Marital Status
<div></div> Source of Income	<div></div> Sexual Orientation
<div></div> Place of residence or business	<div></div> Gender Identity
<div></div> Status as a victim of an intra-family offense	<div></div> Source of Income
<div></div> Sexual Orientation	<div></div> Age
<div></div> Ancestry	<div></div> Marital Status
<div></div> Marital Status	<div></div> Source of Income
<div></div> Age	<div></div> Age
<div></div> Ancestry & Blindness	<div></div> Occupation
<div></div> Marital Status	<div></div> Political Opinion
<div></div> Marital Status & Sexual Orientation	<div></div> Personal Appearance
	<div></div> Sexual orientation
	<div></div> Age & Marital Status



HOUSING DISCRIMINATION IS  
OFTEN SUBTLE AND CAN BE  
DIFFICULT TO RECOGNIZE.

## HERE ARE SOME RED FLAGS:

- A housing provider charges you a fee for your assistance animal, or requires you provide some sort of certification stating that the animal has received specific training.
- An agent makes discouraging comments about families with children or indicates that there are specific rules that only apply to kids.
- You make an appointment to view an available property and when you arrive, an agent tells you that it's no longer available.
- A housing provider tells you they think you would prefer to live in a different location, or ignores other reasonable preferences you've stated.
- You're discouraged from applying for an apartment or home loan even though you qualify for it financially.
- A housing provider tells you that they do not accept housing vouchers, or that they have policies like income requirements that prevent any voucher holder from living there (in Washington, DC and Montgomery, Frederick, and Howard Counties in Maryland).
- A housing provider makes derogatory comments about you, your neighbors, or residents in a neighborhood you're interested in living in based on your/their membership in a protected class.

One of the most effective ways to find out whether housing discrimination has happened is through civil rights testing, or mystery shopping for housing. The ERC is a **leading expert in civil rights testing** and may be able to assist you by conducting an investigation if you think you have experienced housing discrimination.

### TESTER 1



### TESTER 2



IF ANY OF THESE THINGS HAVE HAPPENED TO YOU, CONSIDER REPORTING YOUR EXPERIENCES TO THE ERC AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

[www.equalrightscenter.org](http://www.equalrightscenter.org)