**Fair Housing Law**

The Federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental and/or financing of dwellings and in other housing related transactions based upon race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status (including children under 18 living with parents or legal custodians) pregnant women, people seeking custody of children under 18 and handicap (disability). Some examples are listed below:

* Discourage a person from buying or renting a dwelling in a particular area and encourage him or her to buy or rent in another area.
* Represent that a dwelling is not available for sale, rent or inspection when the dwelling is in fact so available.
* Charge or quote a higher rental or sale price for a dwelling.
* State or provide less favorable terms for the rental or a sale of a dwelling.
* Publish discriminatory advertising.
* Discriminate in the granting or mortgage loans.
* Discriminate on the basis of handicap by refusing to make reasonable accommodations in policies and services or refusing to permit reasonable modifications of dwellings.
* Discriminate on the basis of rental subsidy (use) by refusing to rent to subsidy recipients because of subsidy program requirements.
* Refuse to rent to families with children under six because of lead paint.
* Cannot charge extra for a service animal
* The presence of small children
* Charge extra for reasonable accommodations for a disabled tenant

If you feel you have been a victim of housing discrimination, you do have options. You may a complaint with the following agencies:

* Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office - Civil Rights Division at (617) 727-2200.
* Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination at (617) 994-6000.
* If your complaint is against the management of a federally subsidized housing project or federal housing program, you may file a discrimination complaint with the U.S. [Department of Housing and Urban Development](http://www.hud.gov/) at (617) 994-8200

*Source:* [*www.HUD.gov*](http://www.HUD.gov)