

For assistance or more information, refer to the resources listed below.

Pine Tree Legal Assistance

88 Federal Street
P.O. Box 547
Portland, Maine 04112
(207) 774-8211, TTY: 711
<http://www.ptla.org/>

Maine Human Rights Commission

State House Station 51
Augusta, Maine 04333
(207) 624-6290, TTY: 1-888-577-6690
<http://www.state.me.us/mhrc/>

Boston Regional Office of FHEO

U.S. Dept. of HUD
Thomas P. O'Neill Office Building
10 Causeway Street, Room 321
Boston, Massachusetts 02222
1-800-827-5005, TTY: 617-565-5453

Non-English speakers can be directed to call the Refugee Resettlement Program to obtain an interpreter in their language. Call 207-871-7437.

Department of Community Development,
Cumberland County
Cumberland County Courthouse
142 Federal Street, Suite 102
Portland, ME 04101-4196



**FAIR HOUSING
IT'S YOUR RIGHT**



**Cumberland County
Department of Community
Development**

142 Federal Street, Suite 102
Portland, Maine 04101-4196
207-871-8380
shapiro@cumberlandcounty.org

Signs of Discrimination

Housing discrimination can be blatant or subtle. It is often cleverly disguised and done with a smile. Though the following four statements may seem reasonable or sound fair, they are **all discriminatory**—and they are **all illegal!**

“Sorry, we don’t accept general assistance.”

“We decided to rent to a young couple without children.”

“You can’t live here with that guide dog. We have a ‘no-pets’ policy.”

“I’d love to rent to your client, but the other tenants don’t want someone with mental illness living here.”

Be suspicious when you hear lines like these next three. They are probably attempts to keep you from renting the apartment or buying the home of your choice.

“I don’t think you can afford this neighborhood.”

“I don’t think you two women will be able to handle this heavy mortgage.”

“I don’t think you would fit in here.”

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### *It is against local, state, and federal law to discriminate in the...*

- Sale-
- Rental-
- Financing of a Purchase-
- Financing of Repairs-
- Financing of Services-

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... of housing because of...

- Race or Color-
 - National Origin-
 - Sex-
 - Familial Status-
 - Physical or Mental Disability-
 - Sexual Orientation-
 - Receipt of Public Assistance-
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Exceptions of the Laws

There are very few exceptions to the Fair Housing laws. *If the following conditions exist, then the laws don’t apply:*

- You occupy a rental unit within a 2-unit house that is occupied by the owner, **OR**
- You rent a room in a house where 4 or less rooms are rented and the house is also occupied by the owner, **OR**
- You live in non-commercial rental housing owned and operated by a religious group.
- **Also**, laws on familial status do not apply to housing designed specifically for the elderly (but elderly housing must meet very specific state and federal regulations).

Where to Turn

- Do you think your landlord, banker, or realtor has discriminated against you?
- Do you believe you are being unjustly evicted or harassed?
- Would you like to learn more about state and federal fair housing law?

If you believe you have been discriminated against, we urge you to exercise your rights.