

## ***WHAT IS MEANT BY “RACE”?***

“Race discrimination” is unfair treatment that is based on:

- the color of your skin;
- the country where you were born; or
- the country your ancestors came from.

## ***WHAT TYPES OF UNFAIR TREATMENT ARE ILLEGAL?***

It is against the law for a landlord to:

- Ask the race of tenants;
- Say s/he prefers tenants of a certain race;
- Discourage people from applying for or viewing a place based on race;
- Lie about the availability of housing because of a person’s race;
- Refuse to rent based on race;
- Evict tenants based on race;
- Charge tenants higher security deposits based on race;
- Segregate tenants by race;
- Limit use of the property (e.g., pool, gym) based on race;
- Delay or refuse to make repairs because of race;
- Threaten or coerce tenants because of the race of tenants or their guests; or
- Threaten or fire an employee who refuses to discriminate.

## ***WHO DOES THE LAW PROTECT?***

The law protects anyone “injured” by a landlord’s unfair housing practices. For example, the law protects you if:

- you lose a housing opportunity (e.g., you are denied housing, discouraged from applying, or evicted from housing) because of race;
- you are denied full or equal use of the property (e.g., pool, recreation room) because of race;
- you do not apply for a unit because of a discriminatory ad (e.g., “White landlord,” “Hispanic neighborhood,” “Vietnamese residence”);
- you or your guests are harassed or denied access to the property because of race;
- you are harassed for helping tenants file discrimination complaints or for educating tenants about their right to fair housing;
- you are denied the chance to live next to people of different races because of the landlord’s unfair practices; or
- you work for the landlord and you are threatened or fired by the landlord for refusing to discriminate.

## ***WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM DISCRIMINATED AGAINST?***

### **Take action quickly!**

As soon as the discrimination happens, make notes about:

- ✓ What happened
- ✓ Where it happened
- ✓ When it happened
- ✓ Name, address, and phone number of the landlord
- ✓ Names, addresses, and phone numbers of any witnesses who saw or heard what happened, including anyone you talked to about the unfair treatment

Keep records such as:

- ✓ **Newspaper ads**
- ✓ **Apartment rules**
- ✓ **Warning notices**
- ✓ **Eviction notice**

If you are a victim of housing discrimination, you can get help. The South Bay Fair Housing Project provides *free* legal help with:

- Making complaints to government agencies;
- Investigating unfair treatment;
- Convincing landlords to follow the law; and
- Suing landlords in court, when necessary.

## **BAY AREA LEGAL AID**

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**OR TOLL FREE (800) 551-5554**

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*A program of*  
**Bay Area Legal Aid and the U.S. Department of  
Housing & Urban Development Fair Housing  
Initiative Program**  
*In Collaboration with*  
**Mid Peninsula Citizens for Fair Housing  
and Project Sentinel**

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## **HOUSING DISCRIMINATION:**

### **RACE**



**For help, call the**

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