

CHRO Mission

The mission of the CHRO is to eliminate discrimination through civil and human rights law enforcement and to establish equal opportunity and justice within the state through advocacy and education.

The Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities:

Enforces human rights laws that ban illegal discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodations, and credit transactions

Monitors compliance with state contract compliance laws and with laws requiring affirmative action in state agency personnel practices

Establishes equal opportunity and justice for all persons in Connecticut through education and outreach activities.

Contact Information

Housing Discrimination Unit
450 Columbus Boulevard
Hartford, CT 06103
(860) 541-3403

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The information in this pamphlet is based on laws in CT as of March 2023. We hope that the information is helpful. *It is not intended as legal advice for an individual situation.*

For more information, visit our website at:

www.ct.gov/CHRO



Follow our Social Media at
www.facebook.com/CTCHRO
www.twitter.com/CT_CHRO

Commission on Human Rights & Opportunities



Housing and Covid-19



Fighting for fair housing
during the pandemic

Tel: (860) 541-3400

Tel: (800) 477-5737

www.ct.gov/CHRO

Housing discrimination is illegal. Federal and/or state law prohibits discrimination on the basis of:

Race	Erasure of criminal conviction (pursuant to Clean Slate statutes)
Color	
National Origin	
Ancestry	Retaliation (for reporting/opposing discrimination)
Alienage	
Creed (Religion)	Familial Status (families with children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians and pregnant women)
Disability (physical, mental, intellectual, learning, or perceived)	
Age (non-minors)	Veteran Status
Marital Status	
Sex (including pregnancy)	Lawful Source of Income (income derived from Social Security, SSI, housing assistance such as Section 8, child support, alimony, public or general assistance)
Sexual Orientation	
Gender identity or expression	
Victim of Domestic Violence	

If you believe you have been refused housing or treated differently because of one of these protections, you could have standing to file a housing discrimination complaint with the Commission on Human Rights & Opportunities or the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. **Call CHRO at (860) 541-3403** or fill out our online complaint form at www.ct.gov/CHRO to schedule an intake appointment today.

Fair Housing and Disabilities

It is unlawful under state and federal fair housing laws to deny a person housing because they have a disability. In addition, **housing providers must provide reasonable accommodations to tenants with disabilities to ensure equal access** to the full use and enjoyment of a rental unit.

A reasonable accommodation is a **change in a rule, policy, practice or service that may be necessary to allow a person with a disability the equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling.** For example, if you are disabled with a condition that makes you more susceptible to Covid-19, it might be a reasonable accommodation for your landlord to allow you to pay your rent in a method other than in person.

Housing providers must also allow tenants to make **reasonable modifications** (structural changes to an existing premises) to afford a disabled individual full enjoyment of premises.

Contact CHRO within 300 days of the discrimination

Impact of Covid-19 for People with Disabilities

Treating a disabled individual differently because of concerns that they would be more susceptible to COVID-19 would violate fair housing laws. Unlawful denial of housing, inquiries about whether a person has COVID-19 unrelated to an in-person meeting, or limiting access to housing or housing-related services because of concerns of COVID-19 may constitute illegal discrimination.

Some properties have restricted "visitors" to minimize COVID-19 exposure. However, **people with disabilities who receive personal attendant services are entitled to continue to receive that assistance as a reasonable accommodation despite a building's visitation policy.**

Disabled residents who may be more vulnerable to COVID-19 may make reasonable accommodation requests to help minimize the likelihood of contracting COVID-19 such as **requesting common areas be cleaned more frequently (such as laundry rooms or trash rooms); requesting a building institute a preventative policy such as allowing only one person in an elevator at time or; that meetings be conducted over the telephone or remotely instead of in person.**