

Practice Fair Housing

MARCH 2025

Equal access to housing is a right protected by both federal and state law. The City of San Diego strives to increase housing opportunities and equality for its citizens. Our Practice Fair Housing program offers free services to the community to promote equal housing opportunities. Our program goal emphasizes solutions through education and enforcement to ensure our shared values of community, opportunity and equality.

WHAT IS FAIR HOUSING?

Fair Housing is the ability of persons of similar income levels who are seeking housing in similar housing markets and who have like qualifications to have the same availability of housing choices regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability (physical/mental) or familial status (presence of children) -- as provided under the federal Fair Housing Act.

California laws have the same protections as federal law and further protect against housing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, source of income including rental assistance programs, marital status, age, ancestry, medical condition, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, arbitrary status includes citizenship, primary language, and immigration status, and military/veteran status. Race in California includes hair texture and style.

MORE FAIR HOUSING RESOURCES



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

One Sansome St., Suite 1200
San Francisco, CA 94104
415-489-6400

hud.gov/fairhousing

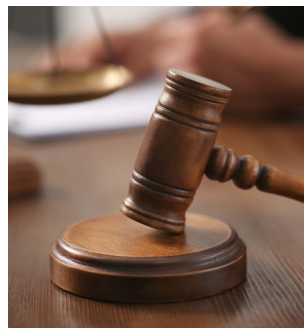


CALIFORNIA CIVIL RIGHTS DEPARTMENT

320 West 4th St., Suite 1000, 10th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90013
800-884-1684

calcivilrights.ca.gov

AS NEW STATE LAWS GO INTO EFFECT, CIVIL RIGHTS DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS RESOURCES AND PROTECTIONS FOR PEOPLE ACROSS CALIFORNIA



As new state laws go into effect, the California Civil Rights Department (CRD) highlighted a range of new resources and protections for people across California. Through educational materials, proactive outreach, and ongoing, enforcement, CRD remains focused on upholding

civil rights and combatting discrimination in California wherever it occurs.

"In 2025, our state continues to lead the charge in the fight for civil rights," said CRD Director Kevin Kish. "And, through new factsheets and trainings, we're also working to make sure our state's residents have the tools they need to stay informed. When you know about your rights, you can help make sure your rights are protected. I encourage everyone to tune in to our new webinars and report discrimination in California whenever and wherever you encounter it."

Know Your Rights to Defend Your Rights

A key component of meeting CRD's mission to enforce the state's robust civil rights laws and reduce discrimination is ensuring Californians have accurate and timely information about their rights and responsibilities. CRD works to support this goal through a range of proactive outreach efforts, including conducting trainings and presentations, publishing and disseminating guides and factsheets, and working directly with community partners to identify and respond to civil rights challenges faced by Californians across the state.

New Resources and Trainings

As part of that work, CRD is expanding its [“Civil Rights 101” webinar series](#) to include a new monthly special topics session aimed at providing a deeper dive into key issues related to state civil rights protections. With different themes each month, the special topics series builds on existing webinars that provide a general overview of civil rights related to employment, housing, and disability. In all, CRD will now hold three webinars a month on the first, third, and fourth Wednesdays at 11:00 AM PT. The [first special topics webinar](#) will be held on February 12 and focus on protections for people using housing assistance such as Section 8. Many of CRD’s webinars and trainings [can also be watched at any time](#) on the department’s YouTube channel.

In addition to the expanded webinar series, CRD continues to update and create informational materials to help people across California better understand their rights under new and existing laws. For instance, the department recently developed in-depth [guidance on Californians’ civil rights at businesses](#) and launched a new webpage to help [ensure Californians understand their rights during disasters](#). These new resources are in addition to updates to existing materials — such as general information on [employment discrimination](#), [hate violence](#), and [paid family leave](#) — in response to changes to state civil rights protections.

New Civil Rights Laws and Protections for 2025

In 2025, a [range of new civil rights laws](#) enforced by or relating to the work of CRD are now in effect. A few key examples include:

- **Hate Littering:** Under [Assembly Bill 3024](#), the state civil rights law that prohibits hate violence now expressly protects people from being targeted with hateful materials, like flyers or posters, on their private property with the purpose of terrorizing them.
- **Driver’s License Requirements:** Under [Senate Bill 1100](#), it is now unlawful for employers to include a statement in a job posting or application requiring a person to have a driver’s license to apply unless the employer reasonably expects driving to be one of the functions for the position and an alternative form of transportation would not suffice.
- **Protected Work Leave:** Under [Assembly Bill 2499](#), enforcement of protected leave related to jury duty, court appearances, and for victims of violence has been

transferred to CRD. The law also expands the reasons why victims can take protected leave and ensures victims’ family members are eligible to take such leave to provide support.

- **Combination of Protected Characteristics:** Under [Senate Bill 1137](#), California is making clear that state civil rights laws protect people who face discrimination based on a combination of protected characteristics, such as race and gender or religion and national origin.

If you or someone you know has experienced discrimination, CRD may be able to assist you through its [complaint process](#). The department also [provides general information and factsheets online](#) about civil rights protections for members of the public.

If you’d like to request an accommodation or assistance in another language to attend CRD’s online trainings or request a speaker to come to your event, please email outreach@calcivilrights.ca.gov.

California Civil Rights Department (CRD) is the state agency charged with enforcing California’s civil rights laws. CRD’s mission is to protect the people of California from unlawful discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and state-funded programs and activities, and from hate violence and human trafficking. For more information, visit calcivilrights.ca.gov.

Reprinted from State of California Civil Rights Department

City Offers Resources for Residents, Tenants and Housing Providers

The City of San Diego wants to remind residents, tenants and housing providers of the resources available to ensure equal housing opportunities in our communities.

The City sponsors regular Fair Housing trainings. The schedule is available by visiting the [City’s Fair Housing Program webpage](#) and clicking on [CDBG Events Calendar](#).

In collaboration with the City, the Legal Aid Society of San Diego offers free community outreach and legal services to anyone who believes they have experienced housing discrimination or harassment. The Fair Housing Hotline is another resource that can be reached at 844-449-3500. Funding for the City’s Fair Housing Program comes, in part, from Community Development Block Grant funds provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. To learn more, visit sandiego.gov/fairhousing.

FILE A DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT

If you believe you have been denied housing or the opportunity to apply for housing in the City because of a characteristic protected by federal or state law, contact the City's Fair Housing Hotline at 1-844-449-3500.

- Contact the hotline within one year of the incident. Speak to a housing counselor and provide facts about the incident.
- If merited, your incident may be referred to a legal representative for further investigation.
- An attempt will be made to assist both parties in resolving the issue.
- If the issue remains unresolved and there is evidence that a violation has occurred, the complaint may be litigated in court.

LOCAL RESOURCES

The City has engaged the services of Legal Aid Society of San Diego Inc. to provide community outreach and legal services.

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO INC.



110 S. Euclid Ave.
San Diego, CA 92114

Fair Housing Center and Hotline:
844-449-3500

www.lassd.org

MULTILINGUAL BROCHURES

Visit sandiego.gov/fairhousing to view fair housing brochures in Arabic, Chinese, English, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese.

Save the Dates

Fair Housing trainings are held regularly and are **FREE**. Get the latest updates on Fair Housing events, workshops and activities at sandiego.gov/cdbg/eventscalendar.

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FISCAL YEAR 2024 AT A GLANCE

Campaign Accomplishments (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)

9499	Multilingual Informational Brochures Distributed
2025	Fair Housing Inquiries Received
146	Fair Housing Discrimination Investigations Implemented
126	Fair Housing Investigations Resolved
52*	Random Fair Housing Tests Conducted
35	Workshops and Webinars were Conducted
729	Persons Educated Regarding Fair Housing Rights

**Funded by CDBG and The Fair Housing Initiative Program Grant*



COMM22 in Logan Heights combines affordable family and senior rental housing, with 13 units designated for underserved transition-age youth with mental illness.