

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: Gender Discrimination in Housing



On February 11, 2021, HUD issued a memorandum, confirming that discrimination on the basis of sex includes both gender identity and sexual orientation.

The City of Chicago's Fair Housing Ordinance and the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance also provide protections against discrimination on the basis of an individual's real or perceived gender identity or sexual orientation.

It is illegal to be discriminated against on the basis of your gender identity or sexual orientation by your housing provider.

Examples of such discrimination include:

- Refusing to rent to a tenant who is in a same-sex couple or identifies as transgender
- Refusal to make repairs for a transgender tenant
- Failing to prevent tenant-on-tenant gender-based violence that the landlord is aware of
- Sexual harassment by a landlord, property manager, maintenance person, etc.
- Harming a tenant based on gender presentation

The way people are referred to can be an important part of their gender identity and expression. When you meet someone new, it's best to ask them what their preferred pronouns are.

Legal Aid Chicago is committed to ensuring that all individuals have equal rights to access and enjoy their housing. If you live in Cook County and have experienced such forms of discrimination, please contact us using the information provided below.



Definitions

What is gender identity?

An individual's personal sense of having a particular gender.

Examples of gender identities:

Male, female, transgender, gender neutral, non-binary, agender, pangender, genderqueer, two-spirit, third gender, and all, none or a combination of these

What is sexual orientation?

A person's identity in relation to the gender or genders to which they are sexually attracted



**For further assistance,
call Legal Aid Chicago
at 312-423-5909**



**You can also apply
for help online at
illinoislegalaid.org**