

Okaloosa County

Fair Housing Month



Fair Housing Month is almost here!

The month of April will be the 43rd anniversary of the passage of the Federal Fair Housing Act, Title VIII of the [Civil Rights Act of 1968](#), passed just one week after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This act prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings, and in other housing-related transactions, based on one of the protected classes which are; race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability or familial status which is a term that includes families with children, pregnant women, and individuals who are in the process of obtaining legal custody of a child. In addition to federal legislation the state of Florida in 1992 passed the Florida Fair Housing Act, which also affirms these rights, and the Commission works diligently to make sure these rights are afforded to every Floridian.

If you have a physical or mental disability (including hearing, mobility and visual impairments, chronic alcoholism, chronic mental illness, AIDS, AIDS Related Complex and mental retardation) that substantially limits one or more major life activities you are protected from discrimination and also have the additional protections which allow reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices or services of the property where you reside. Example: A building with a no pet's policy must allow a visually impaired tenant to keep a guide dog.

The Fair housing law also makes it illegal for anyone to threaten, coerce, intimidate or interfere with anyone exercising a fair housing right or assisting others who exercise that right.

It is everybody's right to have a house regardless of race, national origin, color, sex, religion, status and handicap and the Fair Housing Act makes them able to do so.

If You Think Your Rights Have Been Violated or simply have questions about Fair housing please contact Abra McGill with Okaloosa County Department of Growth Management at 850-609-7004.