

Fair Housing Project

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida (CLSMF)

Our mission is to create equal opportunity in housing for all persons through education, investigation, and enforcement. CLSMF provides a full range of fair housing services in Citrus, Flagler, Hernando, Lake, Marion, Putnam, Sumter, and Orange Counties.

- Community education presentations which explain the rights and responsibilities of renters and home buyers under fair housing laws;
- Investigations of discriminatory housing practices;
- Assistance with processing fair housing complaints;
- Referrals of discrimination cases to attorneys for legal representation.

This brochure is a publication of CLSMF's FAIR HOUSING PROJECT, which is made possible by a Fair Housing Initiative Program grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The information in this brochure is for general education only, and is not intended to be used to solve individual problems, nor should it replace the advice of an attorney. The law which supports conclusions contained herein is subject to change.

The mission of CLSMF is to provide access to justice through high quality legal assistance to low-income persons.

CLSMF Offices

*BREVARD: 1-866-469-7444

CITRUS & SUMTER
106 N. Osceola Ave., Inverness, FL 34450
(352) 726-6592 — CITRUS
1-800-984-2918— SUMTER

FLAGLER: 1-800-405-1417

HERNANDO: 1-866-801-5566

LAKE— (352) 343-6351
226 West Main St., Tavares, FL 32778

MARION— (352) 629-6257
222 SW Broadway St., Ocala, FL 34474

*ORANGE — (407) 841-7777
122 E. Colonial Drive, Suite 200
Orlando, FL 32801

OSCEOLA — (407) 933-1791
800 North Main St., Kissimmee, FL 34744

PUTNAM: (386) 385-0928
216 S. 6th Street, Palatka, FL 32177

*SEMINOLE: (407) 322-6673

VOLUSIA — (386) 258-5600
128 Orange Ave., Suite 100,
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
Client toll-free number: 1-800-363-2357

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: (386)506-5396

Help for the Hearing Impaired is available dialing 711, Florida Relay Service, to conference call with your TTY service.

info@clsmf.org
http://www.clsmf.org

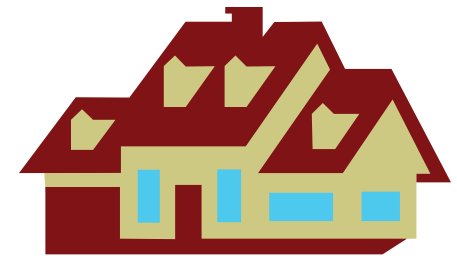
*Offices currently not offering Family Law services

FAIR HOUSING PROJECT



Community Legal
Services of
Mid-Florida, Inc.

Fair Housing



for Orange
County's LGBT
Community



Fair Housing

Fair Housing refers to the laws and regulations that prohibit discrimination on the basis of membership in a protected class in many activities which relate to the sale, lease, or rental of housing.

Nationwide, it is illegal to discriminate in housing based on the following:

- Race
- Color
- National Origin
- Sex
- Religion
- Physical or mental disability
- Familial status (the presence of children under the age of 18 or a pregnant female)



Signs of possible housing discrimination:

- Being told an apartment with a “for rent” sign displayed is not available to inspect
- The manager taking your application and promising to call, but you never hear back
- The landlord explaining why another place would be better for you
- The real estate agent steering you away from a requested neighborhood
- A lender imposing different terms and conditions on a mortgage loan (e.g., interest rates or application procedures)

Fair Housing in Orange County

Through local ordinances, Orange County and Orlando provide greater housing discrimination protections.

In Orange County, FL, it is illegal to discriminate in housing based on the following:

- Race
- Color
- National Origin
- Sex
- Religion
- Disability
- Familial Status
- Sexual Orientation

(Orange County Code, Ch. 22, Art. IV).

For purposes of the Orange County Code, “*Sexual orientation* shall mean an individual’s actual or perceived heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, or gender identity or expression.” (Orange County Code, Ch. 22, Art. I).



As a result, housing discrimination in Orange County based on sexual orientation and gender identity is illegal.

What to do if you experience housing discrimination

- Keep a written record of all attempted and actual contacts and conversations with the manager, landlord, owner, real estate agent, loan officer, mortgage officer, insurance agent, and others involved.
- Keep all documents, including leases, receipts, applications, letters of denial, and other materials related to the discrimination.

You may contact:

- Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida
Email: fairhousing@clsmf.org
- Florida Commission on Human Relations
1-800-342-8170
Email: fchrinfo@fchr.myflorida.com
Website: <http://fchr.state.fl.us>
- HUD Fair Housing Hotline
1-800-669-9777
Email: Fheowebmanager@hud.gov
Website: www.hud.gov/offices/fheo

Help for the Hearing Impaired is available dialing 711, Florida Relay Service, to conference call with your TTY service.