

Medina County Ohio

You do not need an attorney to file a housing discrimination complaint. However, if you wish legal advice and are eligible, the telephone number of Medina Community Legal Aid is **330-725-1231**.

If You Need Additional Assistance:

**Ohio Civil Rights Commission,
Cleveland Office**
216-787-3150

**HUD Fair Housing & Equal
Opportunity,
Complaint Hotline**
1-800-669.9777

Medina County Fair Housing Office

Cheryl Heinly

Fair Housing Coordinator
124 W. Washington Street
Suite B-4
Medina, Ohio 44256
330-722-9219
cheinly@medinaco.org
www.planning.co.medina.oh.us

*FREE Assistance
Cannot Give Legal Advice*

Local Contacts in Fair Housing

City of Medina

Sandy Davis
132 N. Elmwood Ave.
Medina, Ohio 44256
330.722.0397
sdavis@medinaoh.org

City of Brunswick

Pam Plavecski,
4095 Center Rd Brunswick, Ohio
44212
330-558-6875
pplavecski@brunswick.oh.us

City of Wadsworth

Jeff Kaiser
120 Maple S. Wadsworth, Ohio
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jkaiser@wadsworthcity.org

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Medina County Fair Housing

Disability Rights & You



What Is A Disability?

According to the Fair Housing Act Amendments of 1988 - disability is defined as any substantial mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Disability also includes persons with a history of an impairment or those individuals regarded as having an impairment.

Major life activities include some of the following: walking, breathing, and working.

Who Is Covered By The Law?

Persons with physical, mental, cognitive, and sensory disabilities are protected under the law.

If an individual has a disability that meets the above definition, then they are covered by the Fair Housing Act. The Fair Housing Act states that it is illegal to discriminate in rental, sale, or provision of services to persons in a protected class.

What If I Have Been Discriminated Against?

Contact Medina County Fair Housing Coordinator at 330-722-9219 or the Ohio Civil Rights Commission at 216-787-3150.

Why File?

Filing is important, because if it happened to you, then it could and probably will happen to someone else.

What are your rights?

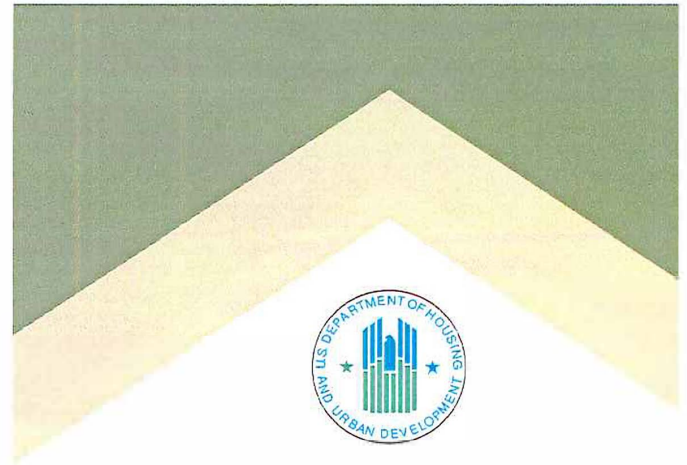
Persons who have disabilities are entitled to the same full enjoyment of their home as those persons without disabilities. In order to fully enjoy the unit, it may be necessary to have specific accommodations or modifications made to a dwelling unit.

Accommodations are alterations in the type of services being provided by a landlord or rental agent. These may include adaptable rental applications, or parking spaces close to the home.

Modifications include any changes to the physical structure of a unit to make it accessible to those with mobility impairments, such as a ramp or grab bars.

In both cases, the cost of these changes will depend on a few factors. If the housing is privately owned, an applicant or tenant is required to pay for the cost of these changes.

However, if federal dollars have been spent to build the housing, then it becomes the property manager's or owner's responsibility. It is important to note that in regard to all changes, only those that are considered reasonable, are allowable.



Subtle Discrimination

If you were looking for an apartment and were told "we don't want your kind in this neighborhood", you might rightfully feel that you had been discriminated against. However, subtle discrimination may also exist and is more difficult to recognize. **For Example:**

- You inquire about an apartment advertised in the newspaper, you make an appointment to see it. However, upon arrival to your appointment you are told it has been rented.
- While showing you a home, the real estate agent spends a great deal of time emphasizing the problems and limitations of the residence.
- The landlord allows your guide dog, however, requests an additional deposit.
- Property Manager informs you that they would prefer to place you in a first floor unit for safety reasons.
- NOTE: Federal housing should have an accommodation policy. They should give you concrete policy procedures, including a form to be able to make your request.