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*Legal Counsel for the Elderly is  
affiliated with AARP.*

## LGBT HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

In Washington, DC, housing providers cannot discriminate against you for being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT). This means you are entitled to equal treatment when you:

- Rent an apartment;
- Apply for and using senior housing;
- Apply for independent living or residential treatment, such as nursing home care; and
- Purchase a home.

### How are LGBT individuals' rights protected in housing?

Various laws<sup>1</sup> prohibit housing providers (including homeless shelters) from discriminating against LGBT individuals based on:

- Gender, Gender Identity, or Gender Expression (e.g., male, female, transgender);
- Sexual Orientation (e.g., homosexuality, heterosexuality, and bisexuality);
- Marital Status (e.g., married (same-sex or opposite-sex), unmarried, domestic partnership);
- Family Status (e.g., LGBT couples and families); and
- Disability (including living with or being perceived as living with HIV/AIDS).

<sup>1</sup> District of Columbia Human Rights Act (DCHRA), Fair Housing Act (FHA), and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations.



Part of the Senior Service Network  
Supported by the DC Office on Aging.

CHAMPIONING THE DIGNITY AND RIGHTS  
OF SENIORS IN WASHINGTON, DC

## **What are examples of unlawful discrimination?**

Discrimination is not always obvious. Sometimes you have to rely on the feeling that you are being discriminated against. Examples of discrimination include:

In the application process:

- Refusing to rent to you because you are LGBT or because of your marital status;
- Saying that units are not available even though they have been advertised or stated as available to others;
- Charging a higher rent or security deposit to you than to others;
- Offering fewer amenities or special offers than what is offered to others; and
- Making the application process more challenging for an LGBT individual or family.

While you are living in the housing unit:

- Refusing to let you have guests of your choice, including LGBT guests;
- Treating you differently because you are LGBT;
- Violating your privacy;
- Evicting you because you are LGBT or because of your marital status; and
- Transferring or discharging you from a nursing home because you are LGBT, and/or without following the rules and give you a chance to appeal.

## **Can a housing provider ask me about my gender identity or sexual orientation?**

It may be illegal for a landlord to ask you about your gender identity or sexual orientation, as they may treat you differently or not rent to you based on your answer. In federally-funded housing it is always illegal for building employees to ask about gender identity or sexual orientation.

**Knowing your rights, and what to do if someone violates your rights, will help you access the housing you deserve.**

## **THINK SOMEONE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST YOU? CALL US.**

- If you are a low-income, DC resident, aged 60 or over, you can call **AARP Legal Counsel for the Elderly (LCE)** at **(202) 434-2120**.
- If you are a DC, Maryland, or Virginia resident of any age, you can call **Whitman-Walker Health's Legal Services Program** at **(202) 939-7627**.