

Know Your Rights Quick Reference Card

Fair Housing

It is illegal for a landlord to discriminate based on: race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or familial status (having children). If you believe you've been discriminated against, report it to HUD.

Source of Income Protection

Many states and cities protect tenants who use housing vouchers, subsidies, or public assistance. Your landlord cannot refuse to rent to you solely because your income comes from a voucher. Check your state laws.

Reasonable Accommodations

If you have a disability, you have the right to request changes to rules, policies, practices, or the unit (like a service animal exception or grab bars). Your landlord must provide reasonable accommodations.

Retaliation Protection

Your landlord cannot punish you for: complaining about maintenance issues, requesting repairs, reporting code violations, or asserting your legal rights. Retaliation is illegal.

Right to Habitable Housing

Your landlord must maintain your unit in safe and livable condition: working heat, electricity, plumbing, no mold or pests, safe doors/locks, and functioning appliances. Report problems in writing.

Security Deposits

Most states limit security deposit amounts and require landlords to return deposits within 30-45 days. Landlords can only deduct for damage (not normal wear). Get an itemized list. State laws vary.

Need Help?

HUD Fair Housing Hotline	1-800-669-9777
Local Legal Aid	Call 211
This Organization	waythroughproject.com

This is general information, not legal advice. Laws vary by state and locality. Consult a legal aid attorney for your specific situation.