

## Federal Protected Classes:

### Race

Prohibits discrimination based on physical characteristics, and cultural practices or characteristics.

### Color

Prohibits discrimination based on skin color. Includes discrimination based on lightness, darkness or other color characteristics.

### National Origin

Prohibits discrimination based on country of origin or part of the world, or appearance of a certain ethnic background.

### Religion

Belief and practice in, or lack thereof.

### Sex

Prohibits discrimination based on being female or male. Provides protections for victims of domestic violence and prohibits sexual harassment. If based on gender non-conformity, discrimination against a person who is lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender may be covered.

### Disability

Prohibits discrimination because of mental and/or physical limitations. Addresses design and construction of multifamily units, and allows for requests for reasonable accommodations and/or modifications.

### Familial Status

Prohibits discrimination against households with children and persons who are pregnant.

## Additional State Protected Classes:

### Creed, Marital Status, and Age

**Local laws may provide additional protections.**

Fair housing laws protect you against intimidation, coercion, harassment and retaliation.

To report housing discrimination or if you have questions about the federal, state, or local laws requiring housing be available on an equal opportunity basis, contact Montana Fair Housing.



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Alternative Format  
Available Upon Request

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**Access and Choice –  
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# MONTANA FAIR HOUSING

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Montana Fair Housing is a private, full service, non-profit organization dedicated to the elimination of housing discrimination, and the advancement of civil rights.

The mission of Montana Fair Housing, Inc., is to promote fair housing throughout Montana, and elsewhere. Among MFH's specific purposes and goals is the promotion of equal opportunity in all housing related transactions, and to ensure all housing is available on a non-discriminatory basis. In addition, Montana Fair Housing supports the pursuit and expansion of all civil rights available in Montana and throughout the United States.

Montana Fair Housing foresees a time that this country provides to all residents opportunities to work, live, and prosper without barriers perpetuated by discrimination. MFH recognizes that these opportunities will only be available in our communities when changes occur in both the private and public sectors, and civil rights are valued and honored by all individuals and entities.

Federal, state and local non-discrimination laws prohibit discrimination in any housing related business or transaction. These laws address discriminatory practices in the rental, sales, insurance, advertising, appraisal, and lending industries, as well as issues arising from discriminatory zoning ordinances, the actions of Home Owners' Associations, and access issues affecting persons with disabilities.

Discrimination occurs when a housing provider makes a decision about a household's eligibility for services, or implements different terms and/or conditions on a household, **BECAUSE OF** the household's membership in a protected class, or the protected class status of someone associated with the household.

## Services: Education, Outreach, and Dispute Resolution

Montana Fair Housing provides educational opportunities for industry representatives, consumers, and advocates. Our workshops are approved for continuing education credits.

Technical assistance is available for housing providers and consumers to ensure they understand their rights and obligations as provided by local, state and federal non-discrimination laws.

MFH offers dispute resolution services to address issues related to federal, state, and/or local non-discrimination laws.

Upon request, Montana Fair Housing will provide a list of housing believed to be available on a non-discriminatory basis.

## Enforcement Activities

MFH investigates allegations of discrimination, counsels individuals who experience discrimination, and assists in the filing of administrative complaints with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Montana Human Rights Bureau. When appropriate, Montana Fair Housing will assist individuals in filing complaints of discrimination in Federal or District Court, and may, on its own behalf, for the public interest and for its constituents, file complaints as an organization.

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## **FAIR HOUSING – IT'S YOUR RIGHT AND IT'S THE LAW!**