

What does discrimination look like in a housing situation?

What
is
discrimination

Discrimination is an action or a decision that treats a person or a group badly for reasons such as their race, age, or disability (Canadian Human Rights Commission, 2018).

What does discrimination look like in a housing situation?

Discrimination can be in different forms. It can be something that someone says or does. It can be a policy at a workplace or residential building.

Discrimination is often based on stereotypes.

A stereotype is an oversimplified image or idea about a type of person or thing.

Example: The belief that a single mother is likely to face domestic violence and cycles of eviction.

"I went to an apartment viewing with my 4-year old daughter. The landlord said he would not rent to me because he did not want me to bring trouble to his building."

The landlord's comments could be discrimination against the mother based on her sex, marital status, or family status.

Example: A property manager knocks on a man's door whenever the building smells like marijuana because he is the only tenant of a visible minority.

"I am a good tenant. I pay my rent on time, I keep my place clean, and I'm not loud. I feel like unfair assumptions are being made about me."

The property manager's actions could be discrimination against the man based on his race, colour, or where he was born.

Example: A landlord does not renew a senior's lease after the senior becomes ill and starts using a wheelchair.

"I have been living here for 25 years, but now the landlord won't renew my lease."

The landlord's actions could be discrimination against the senior based on his age or physical disability.

Where can I find more information?

The Alberta Human Rights Commission can give you free and confidential information about the *Alberta Human Rights Act* and how it helps protect you when renting.

You can file a complaint with the Alberta Human Rights Commission. Complaints need to be filed in English. You can get assistance from a settlement worker or social services provider. If a hearing is scheduled for your complaint, you can ask the Human Rights Commission to use a language other than English or use an interpreter. You should ask for an interpreter before your hearing.

To contact the Alberta Human Rights Commission, go to



www.albertahumanrights.ab.ca

You should not rely on this publication for legal advice.
It provides general information on Alberta law only.

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