



LAES has developed a series of immigrant issue instructional modules entitled "Tierra de Oportunidad" for orientation to our complex society.

LAES - Renting A Place To Live

Tierra de Oportunidad - Module 9

Fair Housing--It's Your Right

Reading 1

A Message From The Secretary:

Every American has a right to fair housing. The right to live where you choose, to raise a family, to own a home -- in dignity and without fear of discrimination -- is a fundamental right guaranteed to all. It cannot be denied to anyone because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, or handicap.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development enforces the Fair Housing Act, which protects you against violations of your housing rights. We want you to know how you are protected and what to do if you believe you have been discriminated against.

I pledge to you that the Department will act quickly and efficiently on all complaints of discrimination brought to our attention, and that every American will receive the full protection of the law.

Henry Cisneros

The Fair Housing Act

The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing because of:

* Race or color

* National origin

* Religion

* Sex

* Handicap

* Familial status (including children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians; pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18)

What Housing Is Covered? The Fair Housing Act covers most housing. In some circumstances, the Act exempts owner-occupied buildings with no more than four units, single-family housing sold or rented without the use of a broker, and housing operated by organizations and private clubs that limit occupancy to members.

What Is Prohibited? In the Sale and Rental of Housing: No one may take any of the

following actions based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status or handicap:

- Refuse to rent or sell housing
- Refuse to negotiate for housing
- Make housing unavailable
- Deny a dwelling
- Set different terms, conditions or privileges for sale or rental of a dwelling
- Provide different housing services or facilities
- Falsely deny that housing is available for inspection, sale, or rental
- For profit, persuade owners to sell or rent (block busting) or
- Deny anyone access to or membership in a facility or service (such as a multiple listing service) related to the sale or rental of housing.

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