



# FAIR HOUSING NYC™

a website of the NYC Commission on Human Rights and  
the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development



*The NYC Human Rights Law prohibits discrimination in housing based on your actual or perceived race, color, creed, age, national origin, alienage or citizenship status, gender (including gender identity and sexual harassment), sexual orientation, disability, marital status, partnership status, lawful occupation, family status, or lawful source of income. The Law also prohibits retaliation.*

## ALIENAGE & CITIZENSHIP STATUS

Alienage or citizenship status means the immigration status or citizenship of any person who is not a citizen or national of the United States.

Discrimination means being treated differently by any person with the authority to rent, sell, or deal with applicants or residents of a housing

accommodation. For example, a building owner or representative (such as a superintendent) is discriminating if they treat you differently because of your actual or perceived citizenship or immigration status, such as asking you for a green card before showing you an apartment.

### These behaviors, policies or practices could be evidence of discrimination:

- Being denied an apartment application because the building owner is uncomfortable with a prospective tenant's actual or perceived immigration or citizenship status, whether it is you, a partner, or a family member;
- Being told that you need to meet additional eligibility verification standards and provide additional forms of identification documents or fill out additional paperwork;
- Refusing to accept a document from you that reasonably appears to be genuine and belonging to you or refusing a document produced for identification because it has a future expiration date; or,
- Being asked questions, such as: "Are you sure you are a citizen? You sound foreign." or if you are told, "I would prefer to rent to US citizens."

*The Law also prohibits retaliation if you file a discrimination complaint against someone, or act as a witness for someone else who files a complaint.*

Your immigration and citizenship status should not discourage you from calling **311** to report substandard housing conditions. Code Enforcement Inspectors sent to check on your housing conditions are not allowed to treat you differently because of your immigration and citizenship status. They will not ask about your immigration status.

**If you believe you are the victim of housing discrimination, contact the NYC Commission on Human Rights at 212-306-7450 or visit 311 online.**