



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.

MARITAL STATUS

Marital status includes the state of being married, divorced, or single.

Since NY State recently approved marriage for same-sex couples, marital status discrimination could also be sexual orientation discrimination.

Discrimination means being treated differently by any person with the authority to rent, sell, or deal with

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

- Being denied an apartment application because the building owner rejects your or your partner's marital status;
- Being asked if you are planning to marry or consider yourself a 'couple';
- Being asked for a cosigner on a lease because you are single (usually women);
- Advertising apartments with the phrase "Couple preferred" or "No Singles";
- Being told that all tenants cohabiting must be related by blood, marriage, or adoption and asking for documents to prove it.

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.

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.