



Spring 2025

Prince William County Human Rights Office Newsletter

# FOCUS

## ON HUMAN RIGHTS

### Fair Housing: Know your Rights

Fair housing is the fundamental principle that everyone deserves equal opportunity to access housing, regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, or disability. In Virginia, additional protected classes include age, source of funds, sexual orientation, gender identity, and military status. Enshrined in the Fair Housing Act, this law aims to eliminate discrimination and uphold the right of all individuals to choose where they live without facing unfair barriers. Promoting fair housing helps foster inclusive communities and safeguards the essential right to safe, affordable, and equitable housing for everyone.

The Fair Housing Act covers a broad spectrum of housing-related activities, including renting, purchasing, applying for a mortgage, or seeking housing assistance. It also prohibits harassment, threats, coercion, intimidation, interference, or retaliation against anyone exercising their fair housing rights or assisting others in doing so.

If you believe you have experienced housing discrimination, you may file a complaint at:

[Prince William Human Rights](#) | [Virginia Dept of Professional & Occupational Regulation \(DPOR\)](#) | [U.S. Dept of Housing \(HUD\)](#)

### "Fair Housing for All" Webinar

The webinar on April 23, 2025, was a successful event that brought together community members, housing professionals, and advocates to discuss fair housing laws and promote equitable communities. Expert speakers covered topics including recognizing and preventing housing discrimination, available resources, and the historical context of fair housing. Attendees engaged in a Q&A session, gaining practical insights. The positive feedback reflects a strong community commitment to housing equity. The event has inspired ongoing efforts to eliminate barriers and foster inclusive, safe, and affordable housing for everyone.

### 2025 Fair Housing Testing

The 2025 PWC Fair Housing Testing Report is currently available on our website for your review. The results showed no systematic issues were found. The full report may be accessed by clicking on the link above.

### Human Rights Commission Adopts Fair Housing Resolution

On April 10, 2025, the Prince William Human Rights Commission unanimously adopted a resolution declaring, affirming, and recognizing April 2025 as Fair Housing Month.

### HUD Certified Housing Counselors

If you are facing housing issues, such as being unable to pay your rent, or mortgage, contact a HUD-certified housing counselor. It is a free service. They can guide you and provide options to help you overcome your issues.

### Housing Resources

The information below is a list of PWC and State resources presented during the "Fair Housing for All" webinar.

- ☛ [PWC Human Rights](#), 703-792-4680
- ☛ [PWC Department of Housing and Community Development](#), 703-792-7530
- ☛ [PWC- Housing Choice Voucher Program](#)
- ☛ [Department of Professional & Occupational Regulation \(DPOR\)](#), 804-367-8530 / 888-551-3247
- ☛ [Virginia Housing & Supportive Services](#)
- ☛ [Virginia Cooperative Extension](#)
- ☛ [First Home Alliance](#), 703-580-8838
- ☛ [Center for Assistance to Families](#), 703-372-5440

### In the News

**Federal Government** [Use of Disparate Impact Theory](#)- Executive Order to review all proceedings that rely on disparate-impact liability.

**State Government-** [Rental Fees: HB2430, HB2218, HB1867](#) - In 2025, Virginia passed three new tenant protection laws. These include requiring landlords to clearly disclose all rental fees upfront, banning certain processing fees and mandating receipts for cash or money order payments, and ensuring landlords with over four units notify tenants 60 days before lease nonrenewal.

**PWC Government** - Prince William County has adopted the [Affordable Dwelling Unit Ordinance](#)

For more information on Fair Housing law and ordinances you may visit the **Prince William Human Rights** office at: [www.pwcva.gov/human-rights](http://www.pwcva.gov/human-rights)

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