



Have You Been Discriminated Against In Housing Because of Your Intellectual or Developmental Disability?

Federal, State and City laws protect you against housing discrimination based on disability. These laws include the Fair Housing Act and the New York State and New York City Human Rights Laws. Housing discrimination hurts everyone. Know your rights so you can protect your rights!

HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

A landlord, public housing agency, condominium or cooperatives board, real estate agent or a seller of property cannot discriminate against you because you have a disability, or because a family member, roommate or other person you are associated with has a disability.

Housing discrimination includes, but is not limited, to the following:

- Refusing to sell or rent to you because of a disability;
- Providing different housing services or facilities to you because of a disability;
- Setting different terms, conditions or privileges for the sale, rental or lease of housing because of your disability; and
- Publishing an ad that says people with disabilities are not allowed to rent or buy.
- Refusing to accept your Section 8 or other housing subsidy voucher.

An example of housing discrimination is a Public Housing Agency refusing to allow a case worker to attend meetings with a person who has an intellectual disability to help her understand the meetings.

HOUSING DISCRIMINATION & REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

The Law protects the rights of people with disabilities by requiring housing providers to make reasonable accommodations in the rules, policies, practices or services if these changes will allow you to stay in your home, or give you the opportunity to access and enjoy all of the services provided by your landlord or Public Housing Agency. Several factors may be considered to determine if the accommodation is “reasonable.”

A reasonable accommodation may include a Public Housing Agency allowing a family member to sign the housing recertification papers for a tenant who has an intellectual or developmental disability and is unable to sign.

The **Tenant Protection Act** in New York City also prohibits harassment by a landlord against a tenant. Harassment may include threats or use of force against you, interruptions in services such as heat or hot water, removing or destroying your belongings or locking you out of your apartment

You have the right to live in your home free of discrimination and harassment

Contact the AAIDD Clinic to see if you qualify for free legal services by calling (718) 780-7994 Monday to Friday 9am-5pm or e-mail clinics@brooklaw.edu.