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# Fair Housing: Know Your Rights

Presenter:

Erika L. Sanders

Director of Program Services

Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council

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# The Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council

- A private, non-profit civil rights enforcement agency
- Membership-based
- Founded in 1977 by individuals concerned about segregation and discrimination in their communities



# The Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council

Headquartered in Milwaukee, we operate two  
satellite offices:

- Fair Housing Center of Greater Madison
- Fair Housing Center of Northeast Wisconsin



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# Our Mission

To promote fair housing throughout the State of Wisconsin by combating illegal housing discrimination and by creating and maintaining racially and economically integrated housing patterns.



# What We Do

- Enforcement Program
- Outreach and Education Program
- Fair Lending Program
- Inclusive Communities Program

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# Assistance for Victims of Discrimination

- Complaint intake
- Investigative services, including testing
- Counseling on options for legal remedy
- Assistance with filing complaints with administrative agencies
- Attorney referrals

# Fair Housing Laws: Federal Protected Classes

- Race
- Color
- National Origin
- Religion
- Sex
- Disability
- Familial Status

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# Fair Housing Laws: State Protected Classes

- Marital Status
- Age
- Ancestry
- Lawful Source of Income
- Sexual Orientation
- Domestic Abuse, Sexual Assault and Stalking Victims

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# Fair Housing Laws: Local Protected Classes

Some Wisconsin cities and counties have additional protected classes. In La Crosse:

- Gender identity and expression
- Physical appearance
- Domestic partners
- Political activities
- Student status

# Fair Housing Laws: Selected Prohibited Practices

- Refusing to sell, rent, insure, construct and/or finance housing
- Misrepresenting the availability of housing for sale, rent or inspection
- Applying different terms or conditions
- Refusing to allow reasonable modifications or accommodations for persons with disabilities

# Fair Housing Laws:

## Selected Prohibited Practices, cont.

- Engaging in harassment, coercion or intimidation
- Steering
- Segregation by neighborhood or community
- Redlining
- Refusing to renew a lease, or causing the eviction of a tenant

# Protect Your Rights: Obtain a Legal Remedy

- Judicial remedy in state or federal court
- Administrative remedies
  - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
  - Wisconsin Equal Rights Division
  - Local administrative agencies, such as the City of La Crosse Human Rights Commission

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# How do I know if I'm experiencing unfair treatment in the housing market?

Illegal housing discrimination can be subtle and difficult to detect.

For tips on what to watch out for, please see the Fair Housing Council's materials about the "red flags" of discrimination.

# Stay in touch and informed!

1-877-647-FAIR (3247)  
toll-free statewide complaint intake line

[fairhousingwisconsin.com](http://fairhousingwisconsin.com)

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