

FAIR HOUSING

Equal opportunity in Jefferson County, New York

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Everyone has the right to seek, obtain, and enjoy housing without unlawful discrimination. These protections apply when renting or buying a home, applying for a mortgage or housing assistance, and participating in other housing-related activities.

YOU ARE PROTECTED

Housing discrimination may be unlawful when it is based on:

- Race, color, creed, or national origin
- Sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression
- Disability
- Familial status, including having children or being pregnant
- Age or marital status
- Military status
- Citizenship or immigration status
- Status as a victim of domestic violence
- Lawful source of income, including Section 8 or other housing assistance

Disability-related rights

A person with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation or a reasonable modification when needed to use and enjoy a home.

POSSIBLE WARNING SIGNS

- A refusal to rent, sell, show, or negotiate for available housing
- Being told a home is unavailable when it remains advertised
- Different prices, deposits, rules, services, or application standards
- Being steered toward or away from certain neighborhoods
- A refusal to consider lawful income such as a housing voucher, Social Security, or child support
- A refusal to consider a reasonable accommodation for a disability
- Discriminatory advertising, harassment, intimidation, or retaliation

If you believe discrimination occurred

- Write down names, dates, addresses, and what happened.
- Keep advertisements, emails, messages, applications, and other records.
- Contact one of the resources below for assistance.

GET HELP OR REPORT HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

LOCAL ASSISTANCE

Community Action Planning Council

Jefferson County Fair Housing Office
315-782-4900
518 Davidson Street, Watertown, NY 13601

NEW YORK STATE

Division of Human Rights

844-697-3471
dhr.ny.gov/report
Free language assistance is available.

FEDERAL

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

800-669-9777
hud.gov/fairhousing
Complaints may be submitted online.

Fair housing laws protect renters, homebuyers, homeowners, and people seeking housing-related services.

General educational information; not legal advice. Sources: Jefferson County Department of Planning & Community Development, NYS Division of Human Rights, and HUD. Prepared September 2026.