

Community Action Partnership of Northwest Montana does business according to federal and state fair housing laws.

When it comes to housing, it is illegal to discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin:

- in the sale or rental of housing or residential lots
- in advertising the sale or rental of housing
- in the financing of housing
- in the provision of real estate brokerage services
- in the appraisal of housing
- blockbusting is also illegal (scaring people into selling their home for a cheap price because minority persons are moving in)

In Montana, there are three additional protected classes, creed (a strongly held belief system), marital status and age. Fair housing laws protect you against intimidation, coercion and harassment.

Fair housing laws are there to assure that people have equal access to housing. For example, two families seeking housing have the same financial qualifications, credit history, and landlord history. One family has children and the other does not. It would be illegal to turn down the family with children, simply because they have children.

Fair housing law is there to assure that people can have equal access to housing. For example, without fair housing law, a person with a disability who had a service animal, might get turned away because a rental has a no pet policy. With federal housing law, the person can ask for an accommodation to the rules, and have equal access.

Fair housing law also is there to prevent people from getting turned away just because they are a member of a protected class. Fair housing law has very few exemptions, such as allowing apartments to be designated for 'seniors only' or for fraternity or sorority houses to be limited to one sex.

Anyone who feels they have been discriminated against on the basis of a protected class can file a complaint through US Department of Housing and Urban Development by calling: 1.800.669.9777 or 1.800.927.9275 (TTY). She or he may also call Montana Fair Housing at 1.800.929.2611 or Montana Relay Service: 711 www.montanafairhousing.org

