



# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

## Source of Income Discrimination in Housing

### What is Source of Income Discrimination?

Source of income discrimination happens when landlords won't rent to you because of the type of legal income you receive. This can include:

- Housing Vouchers
- Social Security or Disability Benefits
- Veterans' Benefits
- Alimony or Child Support
- Public Assistance

These are all lawful sources of income, and it's against the law for landlords to deny you housing based on them.

**Everyone is entitled to equal access to housing, free from discrimination based on their lawful source of income, whether it be vouchers, public assistance, or other non-wage earnings**

### Under Source of Income Discrimination, It is Illegal for Landlords to:

- Refuse to Rent:** Landlords cannot deny you housing because of your income source.
- Charge Additional Fees:** They cannot charge you extra rent or fees because of your income source.
- Restrict Housing Options:** You cannot be limited to specific units or floors in a building because of your income source.
- Set Different Terms:** Landlords cannot impose different lease conditions or deny you amenities, such as access to common areas, fitness centers, or parking, because of your income source.
- Deny Services:** All tenants must receive the same repairs and services, regardless of their income source.
- Exclude from Offers:** You cannot be excluded from advertised perks or amenities because of your income source.

### Have You Heard?

- “We don’t accept Section 8 here.”
- “You need a job to rent this apartment.”
- “Public assistance isn’t reliable enough for us.”
- “We have different rent rates for voucher holders.”
- “Voucher holders can only live in certain units.”
- “We don’t rent to people with alimony or child support as their primary income.”

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**If so, you may have experienced source of income discrimination.**

File a report with the Civil Rights Division of the Maryland Office of the Attorney General online at <https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/CivilRights/default.aspx> or by calling 410-576-6300.

**Other legal resources:** Maryland Legal Aid at (410) 260-1392 | The Equal Rights Center at (202) 234-3062 | Public Justice Center at (410) 625-9409

