

# FAIR HOUSING NEWSLETTER

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## What are Your Fair Housing Rights?

The Federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination based on:

- Race
- Color
- National Origin
- Disability (you or a household member)
- Religion
- Sex
- Familial Status (families with children under 18)

Examples of Housing Discrimination:

- Refuse to rent or sell housing based on race, color, etc.
- Deny provision of property insurance
- Provide different housing services or facilities to certain groups
- Advertise housing only to preferred groups of people

## How to File a Complaint

Discrimination is not always obvious, and sometimes what seems to be discrimination may or may not meet the definition according to federal law. A determination of discrimination cannot be made until all the facts are carefully considered. If you believe you have experienced unfair treatment, please be prepared to address these questions:

Who do you believe discriminated against you? What happened to you? Where did the alleged act of discrimination occur? Why do you believe you are being discriminated against? When did the last act of discrimination occur? How were you discriminated against?

If you believe your rights have been violated, you may view the website, [arlingtontx.gov/fairhousing](http://arlingtontx.gov/fairhousing), write or call the City of Arlington Fair Housing officer, 817-459-6258. The City of Arlington serves as a referral service for fair housing complaints. You will be referred to the appropriate agency based on the nature of your complaint.

# ACCESSIBLE HOME FOR SALE!



3 beds | 2 baths | 1,691 sq.ft.

This Specially Adapted Home is available for a limited time to a first-time homebuyer who is a veteran or individual with a disability.

This home provides a barrier-free living environment that includes counter-tops only 33 inches high, grab bar on the side wall in bathroom area, and a roll-in shower. This home is totally solar powered to lower electricity bills.

For more information on how to qualify for this program visit [tchp.net](http://tchp.net) or call 817-924-5091.

## Meet Amy Powell: City of Arlington, Fair Housing Officer



The City of Arlington Fair Housing Officer is Amy Powell. Amy has been employed with the City of Arlington for over ten years. She handles many

complaints, inquiries, and referrals as they relate to fair housing or any housing related issues or concerns from the general public. Should you have any fair housing related questions or concerns you may contact Amy at 817-459-6258 or [Amy.Powell@arlingtontx.gov](mailto:Amy.Powell@arlingtontx.gov).

## What Does Fair Housing Mean to You?

Arlington Board of Realtors 2015  
Board of Directors Chair Person, Pam Bookout  
[arobri.com](http://arobri.com)



You've heard the term fair housing, but what does it mean when you're buying or leasing property? Most of those categories are self-explanatory, but how about familial status?

That means that you may not be discriminated against because your household includes children under age 18 living with a parent or legal guardian, a person who has legal custody or seeking legal custody of a child or children, or a woman who is pregnant. (The exception to this rule is a development or community that qualifies as housing for older people.)

You don't have to be denied housing to be the subject of discrimination. For example, if a landlord requires families to live on certain floors of an apartment building or charges extra for children that could qualify as a violation of fair-housing laws. Visit the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's website for more answers to your questions about fair housing (see page 3).

## Improved Public Awareness of Fair Housing

The City of Arlington has rolled out phase one of a new public awareness campaign on the topic of fair housing. In 2015, the city completed an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. The results of that study concluded that there are five potential impediments to fair housing including:

- Need for increased awareness, outreach and education
- Limited supply of affordable housing
- Lack of widely publicized complaint and enforcement structure
- Government policies
- Need for increased awareness of potential discrimination

Residents of Arlington have access to enhanced fair housing information and content available on the city's website located at [www.arlingtontx.gov/fairhousing](http://www.arlingtontx.gov/fairhousing). Social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube will be increasingly used as a form of community engagement. Public service announcements are on electronic billboards throughout the city, on several radio stations and the local cable channel. The city will hold quarterly focus groups meetings on fair housing related topics, and provide marketing and promotional items to educate the general public. If marketing materials are needed for your organization, please submit a request to [grantsmanagement@arlingtontx.gov](mailto:grantsmanagement@arlingtontx.gov) or call 817-459-6258.

## Fair Housing and Related Resources

- City of Arlington, Fair Housing Officer  
817-459-6258  
[Amy.Powell@arlingtontx.gov](mailto:Amy.Powell@arlingtontx.gov)
- HUD Fair Housing Enforcement Center  
817-978-5900  
1-800-927-9275  
[hud.gov/complaints](http://hud.gov/complaints)
- Dispute Resolution Services of North Texas, Inc.  
817-877-4554  
[drsnorthtexas.org](http://drsnorthtexas.org)
- Texas Tenants' Union  
214-823-2733  
[txtenants.org](http://txtenants.org)
- Kelley Poppelreiter, Housing Navigator for the Aging and Disability Resource Center  
[Kelley.Poppelrieter@unitedwaytarrant.org](mailto:Kelley.Poppelrieter@unitedwaytarrant.org)  
888-730-2372
- North Texas Fair Housing Center  
469-941-0375  
877-471-1022

## HUD Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has released a final rule to equip communities that receive HUD funding with the data and tools that will help them to meet long-standing fair housing obligations in their use of HUD funds. HUD will provide publicly open data for grantees to use to assess the state of fair housing within their communities and to set locally-determined priorities and goals. The rule responds to recommendations of the Government Accountability Office and stakeholders for HUD to enhance its fair housing planning obligations by providing greater clarity and support to jurisdictions receiving HUD funding, and facilitating local decision-making on fair housing priorities and goals.

For more than forty years, HUD funding recipients have been obligated by law to reduce barriers to fair housing. Established in the Fair Housing Act of 1968, the law directs HUD and its program participants to affirmatively further the Act's goals of promoting fair housing and equal opportunity. The final rule on affirmatively furthering fair housing (AFFH) aims to provide all HUD grantees with clear guidelines and the data that will help them to achieve those goals,



because no child's ZIP code should determine his or her opportunity to achieve.

HUD's rule clarifies existing fair housing obligations for HUD grantees to analyze their fair housing landscape and set locally-determined fair housing priorities and goals through an Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH). To aid communities in this work, HUD will provide open data to grantees and the public on patterns of integration and segregation, racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty, disproportionate housing needs, and disparities in access to opportunity. This new

approach provides a detailed mechanism for HUD grantees to build fair housing goals into their existing community development and housing planning processes. In addition to providing data and maps, HUD will also provide technical assistance to aid grantees as they adopt this approach.

The City of Arlington will use the new fair housing tool when it becomes final to assess community needs and gather public input for investments and decisions made in their local planning processes. See the new rule at: [http://www.huduser.org/portal/affht\\_pt.html#final-rule](http://www.huduser.org/portal/affht_pt.html#final-rule)

## **CITY OF ARLINGTON FAIR HOUSING CODE**

**“IT IS HEREBY DECLARED TO BE THE POLICY OF THE CITY OF ARLINGTON TO PROMOTE, THROUGH FAIR, ORDERLY AND LAWFUL PROCEDURES, THE OPPORTUNITY FOR EACH PERSON TO OBTAIN HOUSING WITHOUT REGARD TO HIS/HER RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, DISABILITY OR FAMILIAL STATUS. THIS POLICY IS GROUNDED UPON A RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHT OF EVERY PERSON TO HAVE ACCESS TO ADEQUATE HOUSING OF HIS/HER OWN CHOICE WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, NATION \ORIGIN, SEX, DISABILITY OR FAMILIAL STATUS. FURTHER, THIS POLICY IS BASED UPON A RECOGNITION THAT THE DENIAL OF SUCH RIGHTS THROUGH CONSIDERATIONS BASED UPON RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, DISABILITY OR FAMILIAL STATUS IS DETRIMENTAL TO THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE CITY OF ARLINGTON AND CONSTITUTES AN UNJUST DENIAL OR DEPRIVATION OF AN INALIENABLE RIGHT WHICH IS WITHIN THE POWER AND THE PROPER RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT.”**

**(ORDINANCE NO. 06-082)**

**City of Arlington, Fair Housing Officer:  
(817)-459-6258**

**HUD Fair Housing Enforcement Center:  
(817) 978-5900  
[www.arlingtontx.gov/fairhousing](http://www.arlingtontx.gov/fairhousing)**

