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Fair Housing Facts: Know Your Rights Westchester/Rockland/Putnam Counties

What housing is covered by fair housing laws in Westchester, Rockland & Putnam Counties?

Housing discrimination is the denial of equal opportunity in the rental, purchase, financing, and insuring of homes to people because of a protected class. The federal Fair Housing Act (1968, amendments 1974 and 1988) covers most housing accommodations. Some housing is exempt under the laws—certain owner-occupied buildings (depending on the size), single-family housing sold or rented in certain circumstances, and housing owned and operated by religious organizations and private clubs for use by their members.

Who is protected from discrimination under federal, state, and county fair housing laws?

The protected classes are:

Federal

- Race
- Color
- Religion/creed
- Sex (gender)
- National origin
- Disability (physical or mental)
- Familial status (including pregnancy and adopting)

State

- All Federal protections
- Marital status
- Age
- Sexual orientation
- Arrest Record
- Military status
- Gender identity/expression
- Lawful source of income (including alimony, child support, income from Social Security, public

housing assistance like Housing Choice [Section 8] Vouchers, and any other lawful source of income)

Westchester County

- All Federal and State protections (except military status)
- Citizenship or alien status
- Ethnicity
- Victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and stalking
- Co-Op disclosure

Rockland County

- All Federal and State protections (except military status)
- Co-Op disclosure

Putnam

- No additional local protections