

County Reaffirms Commitment To Fair Housing Regulations

March 26th, 2019

Potter County recently reaffirmed its commitment to compliance with the Fair Housing Act, a federal law that prohibits discrimination by those selling or renting residences. Legal notices have appeared in newspapers to make this commitment a matter of record, but the public might remain unclear on what it actually entails. Its roots date back to the 1968 Federal Fair Housing Law and a subsequent state measure, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act.

Under the federal act, it is unlawful to discriminate based on race, color, religion, gender, national origin, familial status or disability. Some examples include refusing rent or sale, setting different terms and conditions, providing deceptive information on housing availability, advertising to preferred people, interfering with a potential buyer's or renter's rights through intimidation or coercion, and insisting on unreasonable restrictions when it comes to modifications or accommodations. The state Human Relations Act prohibits discrimination based on age and ancestry, use of guide/support animals, and other factors.

Those who wish to report potential violations are advised to contact the following: **federal issues — U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, 1-888-799-2085; state issues — Pa. Human Relations Commission, 1-412-565-5395; Potter County Fair Housing Officer, Douglas Morley, 814-274-9290.**





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Under the federal act, it is unlawful to discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status or handicap (disability). Some examples include refusing to rent or sell, setting different terms and conditions, providing deceptive information on housing availability, advertising to preferred people groups, interfering with a potential buyer's or renter's rights through intimidation or coercion, and insisting on unreasonable restrictions when it comes to modifications or accommodations. The Pennsylvania Human Relations Act prohibits discrimination based on age and ancestry, use of guide or support animals because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals.

Those who wish to report potential violations are advised to contact:

Douglas Morley, Potter County Fair Housing Officer
Gunzburger Building
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Coudersport, PA 16915
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<http://www.pottercountypa.net>