

# *Fair Housing in the City of Canton, Ohio*

## Why Fair Housing is Important?

Housing plays a large role in defining a person's quality of life. Where you live affects your access to social, cultural, educational and many other community amenities such as schools, transportation, employment, medical services, retail and professional services, recreational and entertainment opportunities and much more. Housing discrimination is an illegal obstacle to housing choice and denies people the opportunity to fully experience and enjoy the “*American Dream*” of choosing, owning and being responsible for their own house and home.

In our society, housing is connected to many critical aspects of life; it contributes to our feeling of success or failure. Where we live determines many things: what kind of education our children will have, what kinds of professional and social associations we will have in our community, what kind of physical danger we will be exposed to, what kind of values and expectations will be opened to us, and what kind of job opportunities will be nearby. Today, housing discrimination has changed its outward appearance. Unsuspecting home shoppers may be politely turned away from the housing of their choice even though they are qualified. Housing discrimination is often disguised with a smile and a handshake instead of a slammed door. The result is the same.

The City of Canton Fair Housing Department is important to City residents because we provide the following services:

1. random testing of housing opportunities to determine if Fair Housing practices are being followed;
2. assistance in the resolution of discrimination disputes through conciliation for parties involved in housing disputes such as tenant/landlord issues, discrimination or, if necessary, litigation;
3. we listen to your experience, evaluate your case and inform you of your rights and your options;
4. when appropriate, Canton City Fair Housing will investigate and test your claim of discrimination and assist with the filing of a complaint;
5. help to conciliate your case with the offending party or refer your case to attorneys who are experts in fair housing litigation;
6. if you are a property owner concerned about your rental practices, we can help with educational materials and information to assist you to maintain compliance with fair housing laws.

**CONTACT US TODAY: 330 – 438 -4133**

**218 CLEVELAND AVE SW. 6<sup>TH</sup> FL. CANTON, OH 44702**



**City of Canton Fair Housing Assistance Program**



**EQUAL HOUSING  
OPPORTUNITY**

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