

What is Source-of-Income Housing Discrimination?

Information for Renters

As of January 1, 2023, the Illinois Human Rights Act makes it illegal for housing providers to discriminate on the basis of your source of income.

What is “source of income”?

The lawful way you support yourself and your family.

Examples:

- SSI/SSDI benefits
- Child support
- Retirement income
- TANF
- SNAP
- Inheritance
- Housing Choice Vouchers

What does “source-of-income discrimination” look like?

- A landlord says he does not accept Section 8 vouchers
- A landlord requires that tenants be employed
- A landlord does not cooperate with a housing authority’s inspection.
- A landlord runs a background check for voucher holders but not for other applicants
- A landlord requires a tenant with Social Security income to prove it is permanent income

...And other forms where tenants are treated differently because of their source of income.

What if a landlord says there is a minimum income requirement, or that my income must be 3x the rent amount?

This may be discrimination depending on the circumstances. Consult an attorney.

What can I do if I think I have been discriminated against based on my source of income?



- Call (855)FHP-PSLS/(855)347-7757 or 815-965-2134 to speak with an attorney at Prairie State Legal Services, or scan the QR code for more information
- Consider filing a complaint with the Illinois Department of Human

Rights at www.illinois.gov/dhr

- If you believe you were discriminated against because of your Housing Choice Voucher, also discuss this with your housing authority.
- Visit illinoislegalaid.org for general legal information

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