

# FAIR HOUSING

# NATIONAL ORIGIN

## Housing Discrimination Based on National Origin is Illegal

The federal Fair Housing Act makes it unlawful to be denied housing opportunities because of a person's ancestry, ethnicity, birthplace, culture, language, or lack of English proficiency.

### Defining 'National Origin'

**National origin** is defined by a person's birthplace, language, customs, or family heritage. People cannot be denied housing or face different standards based on their name, accent, appearance, or participation in customs associated with any nationality.

### Immigration Status

A person's **immigration status** does not affect his or her fair housing rights.

### Identification

Landlords are allowed to request identification and conduct inquiries to determine whether a potential renter meets the criteria for rental, as long as the same procedure is applied to all potential renters.

Even if SSNs are ordinarily used as part of the applicant screening process, alternative documents must be accepted.

### Where can this happen?

- Rental Housing
- Home Sales
- Mortgage Lending
- Housing Assistance
- Home Insurance
- Housing Advertisements



[www.homecincy.org](http://www.homecincy.org) | 513.721.4663

HOME is a private, non-profit fair housing agency serving the Greater Cincinnati area.

# FAIR HOUSING: NATIONAL ORIGIN DISCRIMINATION



## This can look like...

- Requiring a higher security deposit or a cosigner for someone who is not a citizen
- Making comments about not wanting to rent to a particular ethnic group because they don't like the smell of their cooking or something else associated with their culture
- Refusing to rent to persons whose primary language is other than English or because their English is difficult to understand

## This can also look like...

- Threatening to report a tenant to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) if they report housing discrimination



- Steering prospective buyers or renters to or away from certain neighborhoods because of their ancestry
- Requiring that all applicants have a SSN or additional identification documents from a person based on their national origin.

## Think you've experienced discrimination?

Contact HOME for help! We will:

- Record the facts about what happened to you
- Investigate and help to resolve the complaint
- Offer advice and counsel about enforcement options



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