

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



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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 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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