
**IS A HOUSING PROVIDER REQUIRED
TO RENT OR SELL TO SOMEONE
WHO IS RECOVERING FROM DRUG
OR ALCOHOL ADDICTION?**

A housing provider can refuse to rent to someone for the following reasons:

- The tenant or applicant cannot meet the requirements of the tenancy, such as paying rent;
- The person's tenancy would be a direct threat to the health or safety of other tenants;
- The person's tenancy would result in substantial physical damage to the property of others.

However, a denial must be based on actual, documented information that the person cannot pay the rent or threats to health or safety. If no such documentation exists and a person is denied housing because of fears or stereotypes about people in recovery, the housing provider is engaging in illegal behavior and is breaking the fair housing laws.

**IF YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT HOUSING DISCRIMINATION**

Call the Connecticut Fair Housing Center immediately!!!

The Connecticut Fair Housing Center is a private, non-profit fair housing center serving all of Connecticut. Because Connecticut's low-income residents are particularly affected by discriminatory housing practices, the Center devotes its scarce resources principally to assisting Connecticut's low-income residents. If you believe you have been the victim of housing discrimination we will:

- **Take down information about what happened;**
- **Investigate any complaint we receive;**
- **Offer advice and counseling about the fair housing laws;**
- **Provide free legal representation to the victims of housing discrimination.**

If you have a mental disability and you think you may have experienced illegal housing discrimination, or if you have questions, contact the Connecticut Fair Housing Center:

The Connecticut Fair Housing Center

**221 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06106
(860)247-4400
(860)247-4236(fax)**

or

**171 Orange Street
New Haven, CT 06510
(203)772-3247
(203)562-7107 (fax)**

E-mail: info@ctfairhousing.org

***Fair Housing for
Individuals
In Recovery
From Drug or Alcohol
Addiction***



**The Connecticut Fair Housing
Center**

1-888-247-4401

**All Neighborhoods Welcoming
All People**

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this brochure is to raise awareness among community members, tenants, homeowners, landlords, and other housing providers about the fair housing rights of individuals who are in recovery.

Although this brochure only deals with the fair housing rights of individuals recovering from addiction, the Connecticut Fair Housing Center also publishes information about the rights of individuals with other disabilities. Please contact our office for further information.

FAIR HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE IN RECOVERY

Both the federal and Connecticut law prohibit discrimination in housing because of a handicap or disability. The definition of disability includes people who are in recovery from drug or alcohol addiction.

A person qualifies for protection under the state and federal fair housing laws if he or she is not a current illegal user of a controlled substance, is an alcoholic, or has any disease or condition associated with addiction to a controlled substance.

However, the law does not protect current illegal users of a controlled substance.

WHAT THE LAW REQUIRES

Landlords, owners, and other housing providers **cannot** discriminate against someone searching for or living in housing either because they believe the person is in recovery or because in fact the person is in recovery from drug or alcohol addiction.

EXAMPLES OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

Landlords and other housing providers **cannot**:

- △ refuse to rent or sell to a person who was once addicted to a controlled substance but is not a current user;
- △ ask for more information than would be asked of any other potential tenant;
- △ ask about medical treatment or whether the person is able to live independently;
- △ impose different terms or conditions because individual or group is in recovery from drug or alcohol addiction.

ARE ALL HOUSING PROVIDERS COVERED BY THESE LAWS?

No. In Connecticut landlords renting owner-occupied two family houses and owner-occupied rooming houses are exempt from this law. However, there may be other laws which apply to a particular landlord.

GROUP HOMES OR SOBER HOUSES

Group homes or sober houses for people in recovery from drug or alcohol addiction are protected from discrimination by the state and federal fair housing laws.

Cities, towns, zoning boards, boards of health, or others involved in city or town government **cannot**:

- △ refuse to grant an occupancy permit to a group home or sober house *solely* because it will house people in recovery;
- △ subject the group home or sober house to health or fire inspections more frequently than housing for individuals or families;
- △ require the group home or sober house to comply with "single room occupancy" zoning, fire, or occupancy standards.

City and town governments **must** treat group homes or sober houses for recovering addicts the same way they would treat single family residences.