

## Fair Housing Project

### About Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida (CLSMF)

The mission of CLSMF is to provide access to justice through high quality legal assistance to low-income persons.

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc. provides free legal assistance to eligible low-income persons in civil matters (we do not provide legal assistance in criminal or traffic matters).

CLSMF offers free educational seminars and informational brochures regarding the areas of law we practice. Call your local office (listed on the back of this brochure) for further information.

This brochure is a publication of CLSMF's FAIR HOUSING PROJECT, which is made possible by a Fair Housing Initiative Program grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The information in this brochure is for general education only, and is not intended to be used to solve individual problems, nor should it replace the advice of an attorney. The law which supports conclusions contained herein is subject to change.



**\*BREVARD:** 1-866-469-7444

#### **CITRUS & SUMTER**

106 N. Osceola Avenue, Inverness, FL 34450

(352) 726-6592 — CITRUS

1-800-984-2918— SUMTER

**FLAGLER:** 1-800-405-1417

**HERNANDO:** 1-866-801-5566

**LAKE:** (352) 343-6351

226 West Main Street, Tavares, FL 32778

**MARION:** (352) 629-6257

1610 SE 36th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471

**\*ORANGE** (407) 841-7777

122 E. Colonial Drive, Suite 200, Orlando, FL 32801

**OSCEOLA:** (407) 933-1791

800 North Main Street, Kissimmee, FL 34744

**PUTNAM:** (386) 385-0928

216 S. 6th Street, Palatka, FL 32177

**\*SEMINOLE:** (407) 322-6673

315 Magnolia Ave., Sanford, FL 32771

**VOLUSIA :** (386) 258-5600

128 Orange Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32114

**Client toll-free number:** 1-800-363-2357

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:** (386)523-9181

*\*Certain legal services not offered*

info@clsmf.org

**Apply for help online at:**

**www.clsmf.org**



**FAIR HOUSING PROJECT**

# Fair Housing

## For the Orange County LBGT Community



## Fair Housing

Fair Housing refers to the laws and regulations that prohibit discrimination on the basis of membership in a protected class in many activities which relate to the sale, lease, or rental of housing.

**Nationwide, it is illegal to discriminate in housing based on the following:**

- Race
- Color
- National Origin
- Sex
- Religion
- Physical or mental disability
- Familial status (the presence of children under the age of 18 or a pregnant female)

**Signs of possible housing discrimination:**

- Being told an apartment with a “for rent” sign displayed is not available to inspect
- The manager taking your application and promising to call, but you never hear back
- The landlord explaining why another place would be better for you
- The real estate agent steering you away from a requested neighborhood
- A lender imposing different terms and conditions on a mortgage loan (e.g., interest) rates or application procedures

## Fair Housing in Orange County

Through local ordinances, Orange County and Orlando provide greater housing discrimination protections.

**In Orange County, Florida it is illegal to discriminate in housing based on:**

- Race
  - Color
  - National Origin
  - Sex
  - Religion
  - Disability
  - Familial Status
  - Sexual Orientation
- (Orange County Code, Ch. 22, Art. IV)

For purposes of the Orange County Code, “Sexual orientation shall mean an individual’s actual or perceived heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, or gender identity or expression.” (Orange County Code, Ch. 22, Art. I) as a result, housing discrimination in Orange County based on sexual orientation and gender identity is illegal.



## What to Do if You Experience Housing Discrimination

Keep a written record of all attempted and actual contacts and conversations with the manager, landlord, owner, real estate agent, loan officer, mortgage officer, insurance agent, and others involved.

Keep all documents, including leases, receipts, applications, letters of denial, and other materials related to the discrimination.

**You may contact:**

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida

Call: 352-629-0105

Email: [fairhousing@clsmf.org](mailto:fairhousing@clsmf.org)

Florida Commission on Human Relations

1-800-342-8170

Email: [fchrinfo@fchr.myflorida.com](mailto:fchrinfo@fchr.myflorida.com)

Website: <http://fchr.state.fl.us>

HUD Fair Housing Hotline

1-800-669-9777

Email: [Fheowebmanager@hud.gov](mailto:Fheowebmanager@hud.gov)

Website: [www.hud.gov/offices/fheo](http://www.hud.gov/offices/fheo)

**Help for the Hearing Impaired is available dialing 711, Florida Relay Service, to conference call with your TTY service.**