

**You do not need an attorney to file a housing discrimination complaint.**

**However, if you want legal advice and are eligible, the telephone number of Community Legal Aid is**  
**330-725-1231**

***If You Need Additional Assistance***

**Ohio Civil Rights Commission,  
Cleveland Office**  
**216-787-3150**

**HUD Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity,  
Complaint Hotline**  
**1-800-669-9777**

## **Medina County Fair Housing Office**

Denise Testa  
dtesta@medinaco.org

Cheryl Heinly  
cheinly@medinaco.org

144 North Broadway Street, Suite 113  
Medina, OH 44256

330-722-9293

medinaco.org/fair-housing/

## **Local Contacts in Fair Housing**

City of Medina  
Sandy Davis

132 N. Elmwood Ave.  
Medina, OH 44256  
330-722-0397

sdavis@medinaoh.org

City of Brunswick

Pam Plavecski  
4095 Center Rd.

Brunswick, OH 44212  
330-558-6875

pplavecski@brunswick.oh.us

City of Wadsworth

Jeff Kaiser  
120 Maple S.

Wadsworth, OH 44281  
330-335-1521

jkaiser@wadsworthcity.org

***FREE Assistance  
Cannot Give Legal Advice***



**Medina  
County  
Ohio**

**Medina County  
Fair Housing**  
***Disability Rights & You***



## What Is A Disability?

According to the Fair Housing Act Amendments of 1988 – disability is defined as any substantial mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Disability also includes persons with a history of an impairment or those individuals regarded as having an impairment.

Major life activities include some of the following: walking, breathing, and working.

## Who Is Covered By The Law?

Persons with physical, mental, cognitive, and sensory disabilities are protected under the law.

If an individual has a disability that meets the above definition, then they are covered by the Fair Housing Act. The Fair Housing Act states that it is illegal to discriminate in rental, sale, or provision of services to persons in a protected class.

## What If I Have Been Discriminated Against?

**Contact**  
**Medina County Fair Housing**  
**Coordinator**  
**at 330-722-9293**  
**or the**  
**Ohio Civil Rights Commission**  
**at 216-787-3150**

## Why File?

Filing is important, because if it happened to you, then it could and probably will happen to someone else.

## What are your rights?

Persons who have disabilities are entitled to the same full enjoyment of their home as those persons without disabilities. In order to fully enjoy the unit, it may be necessary to have specific accommodations or modifications made to a dwelling unit.

Accommodations are alterations in the type of services being provided by a landlord or rental agent. These may include adaptable rental applications, or parking spaces close to the home.

Modifications include any changes to the physical structure of a unit to make it accessible to those with mobility impairments, such as a ramp or grab bars.

In both cases, the cost of these changes will depend on a few factors. If the housing is privately owned, an applicant or tenant is required to pay for the cost of these changes.

However, if federal dollars have been spent to build the housing, then it becomes the property manager's or owner's responsibility. It is important to note that in regard to all changes, only those that are considered reasonable are allowable.



## Subtle Discrimination

If you were looking for an apartment and were told “we don’t want your kind in this neighborhood,” you might feel that you have experienced discrimination. However, subtle discrimination may also exist and is more difficult to recognize.

### **For Example:**

- You inquire about an apartment advertised in the newspaper, you make an appointment to see it. However, upon arrival to your appointment, you are told it has been rented.
- While showing you a home, the real estate agent spends a great deal of time emphasizing the problems and limitations of the residence.
- The landlord allows your guide dog; and requests an additional deposit.
- Property Manager informs you that they would prefer to place you in a first floor unit for safety reasons.