

Knowing What to Look For: Identifying Discrimination in Ads

When posting an ad, some landlords will say they are only willing to rent to *some* tenants, for many reasons. This may be said directly, or indirectly in their ad.

Only accepting tenants who meet certain criteria is okay sometimes, but other times it might be **discriminatory** under the Ontario Human Rights Code.

In Ontario, it's illegal for a landlord to deny you rent based on any of the following:

- Your race, colour, or ethnicity
- Religion
- Birthplace or citizenship
- Age (if you are over 18)
- Sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression
- Disability
- Marital status
- You being pregnant
- You having children
- You receiving social assistance

There are a few situations where the Ontario Human Rights Code does not stop a landlord from refusing to rent to you:

- If all the units in the building are rented to people of one sex, the landlord can exclude those who are not of that sex.
- If the home is rented to seniors, the landlord can select tenants based on their age.
- For any reason if you would be sharing common space with the landlord or their family.

Discrimination can be hard to prove. If you find yourself being refused rent and you think it might be for discriminatory reasons, it's a good idea to keep a record of things which can support your case.

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For more information, where to get help, and how to fight against landlord discrimination, visit Steps to Justice at: stepstojustice.ca/questions/housing-law/landlord-wont-rent-me-and-i-think-its-because-discrimination-what-can-i-do

Or contact one of the following groups below:

Peterborough Community Legal Centre
705-749-9355
ptbo-clc.org

The Human Rights Legal Support Centre
1-866-625-5179

Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation
1-800-263-1139 ext. 1
cera@equalityrights.org
equalityrights.org/cera/

To **launch a discrimination claim**, contact:

The Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario
htro.ca
1-866-598-0322