WHAT IS SOURCE OF INCOME DISCRIMINATION?

The Illinois Human Rights Act makes it illegal for housing providers to discriminate on the basis of your source of income.

WHAT IS SOURCE OF INCOME?

The lawful way you support yourself and your family.
Examples:

- Housing Choice Vouchers
- SSI/SSDI benefits
- Child support
- Retirement income
- TANF
- SNAP
- Inheritance

WHAT DOES SOURCE OF INCOME DISCRIMINATION LOOK LIKE?

- A landlord says he does not accept Section 8 vouchers
- A landlord requires that tenants be employed
- A landlord does not cooperate with a housing authority's inspection
- A landlord runs a background check for voucher holders but not for other applicants
- A landlord requires a tenant with Social Security income to prove it is permanent income
- Other forms where tenants are treated differently because of their source of income

WHAT IF A LANDLORD SAYS THERE IS A MINIMUM INCOME REQUIREMENT, OR THAT MY INCOME MUST BE THREE TIMES THE RENT?

This may be discrimination depending on the circumstances. Consult an attorney.

WHAT CAN I DO IF I THINK I HAVE BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BASED ON MY SOURCE OF INCOME?

- Consider filing a complaint with the Illinois Department of Human Rights at illinois.gov/dhr.
- If you believe you were discriminated against because of your Housing Choice Voucher, also discuss this with your housing authority.
- Contact PSLS to speak with an attorney.

PRAIRIE STATE LEGAL SERVICES

CONTACT US

If you or someone you know is a victim of housing discrimination, the Fair Housing Project may be able to help. We will connect you with the PSLS office that serves the county where you live.

855-FHP-PSLS (347-7757)
pslegal.org/fairhousing

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