

What Can LawNY® Help Me With?

LawNY® has many different programs to help with many different civil legal problems. Some of the areas LawNY® works in is:

- ◇ Homelessness Prevention
- ◇ Disability Advocacy
- ◇ Consumer Rights
- ◇ Employment Law
- ◇ SNAP and WIC through the Nutrition Outreach and Education Program
- ◇ Senior Law
- ◇ Foreclosure prevention
- ◇ Fair Housing Enforcement
- ◇ Health Law/Enrollment

Since our funding is limited, we are always seeking new grants to fund our services to individuals and families who are considered to be low-income. Sometimes, we get new grants that allow us to offer new services. Sometimes, grants end that once paid for us to do special kinds of legal work.

For a full list of our services, and to see if we are able to assist you, please call our offices for an evaluation.



Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc. ®

Fair Housing Education and
Outreach Initiative

Geneva Office

361 South Main Street
Geneva, NY 14456
315-781-1465

Rochester Office

1 West Main Street
Suite 400
Rochester, NY 14614
585-325-2520

Toll Free: 866-781-FAIR(3247)

www.LawNY.org



*Interpreter Services Available

About the Fair Housing Education and Outreach Initiative at LawNY®

What is the Fair Housing Education and Outreach Initiative at LawNY?

The Fair Housing Education and Outreach Initiative at LawNY is a new program focused on education for the communities we serve and other organizations within the communities we serve. Shorter presentations will provide a brief overview of the federal Fair Housing Act and the classes of people this Act protects, while longer presentations and trainings will go more in depth into the various protections the Act covers.

Who can request information and training on the federal Fair Housing Act?

We are available to give presentations and trainings to community members directly as well as members of organizations which serve our communities.

Where and when do information and training presentations happen?

Information and training presentations can happen in person or through electronic platforms. They can be done at community events, community agency offices, or one on one with our office staff.

How do I request an information or training presentation?

Call Mary Palermo in our Geneva Office or Naira Pagan in our Rochester office.



Fair Housing Education and Outreach Initiative

Have you ever been discriminated against based on your race, color of your skin, religion, national origin, sex, disability or family status when renting or buying a home? Has a landlord or realtor ever told you that the house you want to rent or buy isn't available anymore? Have they ever charged you higher rent or fees? Have they refused to show you certain properties because of your race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or family status?

The Fair Housing Education and Outreach Initiative at Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc. ® is here to explain what your rights are, what to look for, and what to do if you are discriminated against.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

The federal fair housing law prohibits discrimination based on the following protected classes:

- ◇ Race
- ◇ Color
- ◇ Religion
- ◇ National Origin
- ◇ Sex
- ◇ Family Status
- ◇ Disability

Please Note: Although Criminal History is not directly protected by the Act, if a housing provider treats individuals with comparable criminal histories differently because of their race, national origin, or other protected classes, it may be prohibited by the Act.

Discrimination based on these protected classes is illegal under the federal Fair Housing Act. This means that landlords, realtors, financial institutions and others involved in renting or selling housing cannot refuse to rent or sell to you based on these protected classes. They also cannot give you higher rental rates, interest rates, or charge higher or extra fees because of your membership to one of these protected classes.

What do I do if I have been discriminated against based on the above protected classes?

Call LawNY's trained staff with the Fair Housing Enforcement Project (FHPEP). The FHPEP has been funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development since 1998 to investigate housing discrimination complaints and provide free access to the federal courts for people whose cases have merit. FHPEP is a program of LawNY® and serves Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates Counties.

The FHPEP program staff will listen and collect important information. They may refer you to partnering agencies for additional help or they may thoroughly investigate the complaint, review the results of the investigation with you, provide legal representation in an enforcement action for cases that have sufficient merit, and provide all services at no expense to the client.

WHAT DOES HOUSING DISCRIMINATION LOOK LIKE?

- ◇ Refusal to sell or rent housing
- ◇ Falsely denying that housing is available for inspection, sale, or rent.
- ◇ Having different terms, conditions, amenities, etc. for sale or rental of dwellings
- ◇ Different services or facilities for different protected classes
- ◇ "Steering" to different neighborhoods, properties, or housing opportunities
- ◇ Advertisement or any statement that indicates limitation or preference based on the protected classes.
- ◇ Landlords refusal to make reasonable modifications to the physical property or policies if you are disabled and need these accommodations to safely live in your dwelling
 - ◇ i.e.: refusal to change a no pets policy for a service animal or to allow the installation of grab bars in the shower