



WORKING FOR JUSTICE IN HOUSING  
SERVING ALL OF MARYLAND

## Fair Housing Laws

Fair Housing means that you have the right to live where you choose without discrimination based on your personal characteristics. Fair Housing laws protect your rights; they also enable government agencies and fair housing organizations, like BNI, to help you enforce your rights.

Under Federal Law, it is illegal to discriminate in the sale, rental, financing, insuring or advertising of real estate on the basis of:

- Race
- Color
- National Origin
- Sex
- Religion
- Familial Status (defined as one or more individuals under the age of 18 years living with a parent or another person having legal custody of such individuals. It also includes pregnant women and those in the process of securing legal custody of a person under the age of 18.)
- Physical or Mental Disability
- In addition, housing providers are required to make reasonable accommodations to policies and procedures to assure a disabled tenant's right to equal enjoyment of their dwelling.