

Guide to Local, State and Federal Laws Governing Tenant-Landlord Relations

including laws prohibiting discrimination in housing



Prince George's County Supplement — May 2013

©Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc. www.BNI-Maryland.org

Published by:

Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc. • 2530 N. Charles Street • Baltimore, MD 21218

Baltimore Metro: 410-243-6007 • Toll Free In Maryland: 1-800-487-6007

ABOUT US

Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc. (BNI)

2530 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Administrative: 410-243-4468

Fair Housing: 410-243-4400

Tenant/Landlord Hotline: 410-243-6007 or toll-free 1-800-487-6007

Fax: 410-243-1342

Website: www.bni-maryland.org

BNI is a statewide nonprofit organization established in 1959 to promote justice in housing for all people in the State of Maryland through fair housing and tenant-landlord programs and public information activities.

BNI's purpose is to:

1. Maintain viable interracial communities by

- Providing advice and assistance on how to maintain neighborhood diversity.
- Fighting blockbusting, racial steering, and racial harassment in cooperation with other appropriate agencies.

2. Create an open housing market by

- Educating the public and the housing industry as to state, federal, and local laws forbidding discrimination by reason of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, physical or mental handicap.
- Encouraging all home seekers to consider the total housing market.
- Upholding fair housing laws by investigating complaints of housing discrimination and by monitoring the sale and rental of housing.

3. Improve tenant-landlord relations by

- Mediating disputes between tenants and landlords.
- Giving advice and information to landlords and tenants on tenant/landlord issues.
- Encouraging the formation of tenant organizations.

DISCLAIMER

This manual offers legal information and is not legal advice. This information does not take the place of consulting with an attorney who can apply the law to your individual circumstances. The reader is cautioned to seek proper legal advice before using or relying upon any information provided in this manual. BNI makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information but does not warrant that the materials are completely error-free, up-to-date or comprehensive.

STATE AND FEDERAL HOUSING LAW

This edition of BNI's *Prince George's County Supplement to State and Federal Laws Governing Tenant-Landlord Relations* does not provide information on the state and federal laws related to housing. Please see BNI's *Guide to State and Federal Laws Governing Tenant-Landlord Relations* or consult your local law library for applicable state and federal laws.

© 2013 Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc.

This publication is copyrighted by Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc. Do not distribute or copy any part of this publication without first obtaining permission from Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc.

Help Us Improve This Guide!

BNI is committed to ensuring that this guide is accurate, error-free and meets the needs of our users. Please contact us at 410-243-4468 or email info@bni-md.org if you notice any errors or have suggestions for improvement.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SUPPLEMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| ABOUT US | |
|--|-----|
| DISCLAIMER | 3 |
| TABLE OF CONTENTS | |
| LANDLORD/TENANT CODE | 6 |
| Maintenance of Property—Landlord's Responsibility | 6 |
| Tenant's Right to Enter at Beginning of Lease Term | |
| Landlord's Right to Access | |
| Tenant's Right to Read Meters | |
| Tenant's Duties | |
| Report of Condition of the Premises | |
| Late Fees | |
| Security Deposits | |
| Leases | |
| Required Lease Provisions | |
| Drug Activities Prohibited | |
| Rental Facilities in Flood Areas; Notice to Tenants | |
| Equipment provided by landlord | |
| Prohibited lease provisions | |
| Evictions; Placement of Abandoned Property | |
| CONSUMER PROTECTION | |
| Unlawful Practices | |
| Recovery of Costs | |
| MULTI-FAMILY RENTAL LICENSE | |
| License required | |
| Exemptions from Licensing Requirements | 15 |
| License Issuance or Denial | .10 |
| License Renewal | |
| | |
| Change of Ownership | |
| Display of LicenseHOUSING DISCRIMINATION—HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION | .10 |
| | |
| Definitions | |
| Human Relations Commission | |
| Complaints | |
| Prohibited Acts Relating to Housing | |
| Exceptions | |
| and the second s | .21 |
| Influencing a Transfer of Property | |
| Real Estate Signs | |
| Prohibited Statements | |
| Solicitations | |
| Income Requirements | |
| HOUSING CODE | |
| Definitions | |
| Duties and Powers of the Code Official | |
| Violations | .24 |
| Notices and Orders | 24 |

| Unsafe Structures and Equipment | 24 |
|---|----|
| Unsafe Conditions—Emergency Measures | |
| Condemnation and Demolition | |
| General Definitions | 26 |
| General Requirements of Exterior Property Areas | 27 |
| Exterior Structure | |
| Interior Structure | 29 |
| Extermination | 29 |
| Interior Signage for Multifamily Dwellings | 29 |
| Light, Ventilation and Occupancy Limitations | |
| Toilet Rooms | |
| Water System | 30 |
| Mechanical and Electrical Requirements/Facilities | |
| Noise in a Residential Area | |
| | |