



# KNOW Your Rights

# LGBT Housing

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LGBT people often face housing discrimination. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force found that 19% of transgender and gender nonconforming people had been refused a house or apartment because of their gender identity, and 19% had been homeless as a result of their gender identity. A 2007 study of Michigan residents and a 2013 national study by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) found that same-sex couples faced discrimination based on their sexual orientation when attempting to rent apartments. This discrimination is as pervasive as it is illegal.



**EQUAL HOUSING  
OPPORTUNITY**

Sexual orientation and gender identity are protected categories in Massachusetts, meaning that it is illegal to be denied housing or a mortgage based on sexual orientation or gender identity. It is also illegal to inquire about a potential buyer or renter's sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.

HUD prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, so anyone who receives funds from HUD, has loans insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), or is an FHA-insured lender is also prohibited on a federal level from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Transgender people experience a great deal of housing discrimination and also high rates of homelessness. 29% of transgender homeless people have been turned away from a homeless shelter due to their gender identity, and 42% have been forced to live in homeless shelters as the wrong gender (National Center for Transgender Equality), which is illegal both under Massachusetts law and HUD regulation.

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If you have experienced housing discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity, you should contact the Office of Somerville Commission for both the **LGBT Liaison and the Human Rights Commission** at 617-625-6600 x2400 or call 3-1-1.



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Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston	617-399-0491 TTY 1-800-439-2370
MassEquality	(617) 878-2300
GLAD	(617) 426-1350
Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination	(617) 994-6000
Somerville Fair Housing Commission	617-625-6600 x2588

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KYR Campaign Committee works for rights education to everyone in Somerville.

**KYR**



**Join: 617-625--6600 x2400**  
**Commission@Somervillema.gov**