

# DISCRIMINATION IN PUBLIC SERVICES AND ACCOMMODATIONS IS PROHIBITED UNDER THE UNRUH CIVIL RIGHTS ACT

THE CIVIL RIGHTS DEPARTMENT IS THE STATE AGENCY CHARGED WITH ENFORCING CALIFORNIA'S CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS. THE MISSION OF THE CRD IS TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA FROM UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, BUSINESSES, AND STATE-FUNDED PROGRAMS, AND FROM BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING.



Civil Rights  
Department  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

The law requires “full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, or services in all business establishments.” Business establishments covered by the law include, but are not limited to:

- Hotels and motels
- Nonprofit organizations
- Restaurants
- Theaters
- Barber shops and beauty salons
- Hospitals
- Housing accommodations
- Local government and public agencies
- Retail establishments

## HATE VIOLENCE

Under the Ralph Civil Rights Act, it is against the law for any person to threaten or commit acts of violence against a person or property based on race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, marital status, medical condition, genetic information, disability, sex/gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or position in a labor dispute.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is a violation of civil law in addition to being a criminal offense. In 2016, AB 1684 (Stone) gave CRD authority to receive, investigate, conciliate, mediate, and prosecute civil complaints alleging human trafficking under California Civil Code, § 52.5, the California Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

## FILING A COMPLAINT

If you believe you are a victim of discrimination, hate violence, or human trafficking, you may file a complaint by contacting CRD as described below. For employment cases only, file within three years of the last date of harm; for all other cases, file within one year of the last date of harm. CRD processes complaints filed by persons with terminal illnesses on a priority basis.

To schedule an appointment, contact the Communication Center below.

If you have a disability that requires a reasonable accommodation, CRD can assist you by scribing your intake by phone or, for individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing or have speech disabilities, through the California Relay Service (711), or you can contact us below.

## CONTACT US

Toll Free: (800) 884-1684  
TTY: (800) 700-2320  
contact.center@calcivilrights.ca.gov  
calcivilrights.ca.gov/complaintprocess

# DISCRIMINATION IS AGAINST THE LAW

## CIVIL RIGHTS IN CALIFORNIA

The Civil Rights Department (CRD) enforces California state laws that prohibit harassment and discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations and that provide for pregnancy leave and family and personal medical leave. It also accepts and investigates complaints alleging hate violence or threats of hate violence and human trafficking.

## CRD ENFORCES THESE LAWS BY:

The Civil Rights Department enforces this law by:

1. Investigating harassment, discrimination, and denial of leave complaints
2. Assisting parties to voluntarily resolve complaints involving alleged violations of the laws
3. Prosecuting violations of the law
4. Educating Californians about the laws prohibiting harassment and discrimination by providing written materials and participating in seminars and conferences

# DISCRIMINATION IS AGAINST THE LAW



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## YOU ARE PROTECTED

The California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) prohibits harassment and discrimination in employment based on the following:

- Race (includes hair texture and protective hairstyle)
- Color
- Religion (includes religious dress & grooming practices)
- Sex/gender (includes pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and/or related medical conditions)
- Gender identity, gender expression
- Sexual orientation
- Marital status
- Medical Condition (genetic characteristics, cancer or a record or history of cancer)
- Military or veteran status
- National origin (includes language use and possession of driver's license issued to persons unable to prove their presence in the United States is authorized under federal law)
- Ancestry
- Disability (mental and physical, including HIV/AIDS, cancer, and genetic characteristics)
- Genetic information
- Request for family care leave
- Request for leave for a serious health condition
- Request for Pregnancy Disability Leave
- Retaliation for reporting patient abuse in tax-supported institutions
- Age (over 40)
- Criminal Background (Fair Chance Act)

## DISCRIMINATION IS PROHIBITED

Discrimination is prohibited in all employment practices, including, but not limited to:

1. Advertisements
2. Applications, screening, and interviews
3. Hiring, transferring, promoting, terminating, or separating employees
4. Working conditions
5. Participating in a training or apprenticeship program, employee organization, or union

Discrimination is prohibited in all aspects of the housing business, including, but not limited to:

1. Advertisements
2. Mortgage lending and insurance
3. Application and selection processes
4. Terms, conditions, and privileges of occupancy, including freedom from harassment
5. Public and private land-use practices, including the existence of restrictive covenants

Individuals with disabilities are entitled to reasonable accommodation in rules, policies, practices, and services and are also permitted, at their own expense, to reasonably modify their dwelling to ensure full enjoyment of the premises.

As in employment discrimination law, individuals are protected from retaliation for filing complaints.

FEHA also prohibits discrimination in the rental and sale of housing based on the following:

- Race
- Color
- Religion
- Sex
- Gender
- Gender identity/ Gender expression
- Ancestry
- Sexual orientation
- Marital status
- Source of income
- Genetic information
- National origin (including language use restrictions)
- Familial status (households with children under age 18, individuals who are pregnant, or who are pending legal custody of a child under age 18)
- Disability (mental and physical, including HIV/AIDS, cancer, and genetic characteristics)
- Military or veteran status

## CALIFORNIA WORKERS ARE:

- Guaranteed reasonable accommodation or leave if disabled because of pregnancy, or if your job would cause undue risk to you or your pregnancy's successful completion (if working for an employer of more than 5 employees)
- Guaranteed leave for the birth or adoption of a child; for the employee's own serious health condition; or to care for a parent, spouse, or child with a serious health condition (if working for an employer of more than 50 employees)
- Protected from harassment because of their sex, race, or any other category covered under the law
- Protected from retaliation for filing a complaint with CRD, for participating in the investigation of a complaint, or for protesting possible violations of the law
- California workers with disabilities are also entitled to reasonable accommodation when necessary in order to perform the job