

# Protected Classes

A group of people with a common characteristic who are legally protected from housing discrimination on the basis of that characteristic.

Protected classes are created by federal, state, and local law. In Maryland, all of the federal protected classes apply: **Color, Familial Status, National Origin, Disability, Race, Religion, and Sex**, along with the following state protected classes: **Marital Status, Sexual Orientation, Source of Income, and Gender Identity**.

In addition, the classes listed below are protected from discrimination in the following local jurisdictions:

## Age

Anne Arundel County  
Baltimore City  
Cambridge  
Hagerstown  
Rockville  
Baltimore County  
Harford County  
Howard County  
Montgomery County  
Prince George's County

## Ancestry

Anne Arundel County  
Baltimore City  
Cambridge  
Rockville  
Montgomery County

## Citizenship

Anne Arundel County  
Annapolis  
Prince George's County

## Family Responsibility

Montgomery County

## Occupation

Anne Arundel County  
Harford County  
Howard County  
Prince George's County

## Personal Appearance

Harford County  
Howard County  
Prince George's County

## Political Opinion

Harford County  
Howard County  
Prince George's County

## Presence of Children

Rockville  
Montgomery County

If you are experiencing discrimination in housing, or a landlord-tenant issue, please contact the Fair Housing Action Center of Maryland by visiting our website:

[fairhousingmd.org](http://fairhousingmd.org)

