

Q

Can a landlord refuse to rent an apartment to me because of my HIV status?

A

Probably not. In many buildings, federal law makes it illegal for a landlord to refuse to rent a unit to somebody because the renter or the renter's partner, friend or family member is HIV-positive.

Q

Can a someone refuse to sell me a house because of my HIV status?

A

Probably not. In most housing sales, federal law makes it illegal for a homeowner or realtor to refuse to sell a home to somebody because the buyer or the buyer's partner, friend or family member is HIV-positive.

How to Get Help

If you need help because you think your housing rights are being violated, call:

**Department of Housing and Urban Development
Housing Discrimination Hotline**

1.800.669.9777

Mississippi Center for Justice

Jackson Office
601.352.2269

Indianola Office
662.887.6570

Biloxi Office
228.435.7284

Call as soon as you have a concern or question about your rights.

There are deadlines for taking legal action. Waiting too long could mean you lose your rights and are not able to get the help you need.

www.mscenterforjustice.org

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Housing Rights

**MISSISSIPPI
CENTER
FOR JUSTICE**

For Persons Living with HIV/AIDS

Q

What is housing discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS?

A

Housing discrimination happens when a landlord or property owner refuses to sell or rent a home to someone because of the buyer's HIV-positive status, or the HIV status of the buyer's relative, friend or partner.

Did You Know?

The Fair Housing Act protects against HIV/AIDS Discrimination in the sale of homes and rental of apartments.

In most buildings, a landlord may not evict a tenant only because the landlord finds out that the tenant is HIV-positive, or if the tenant's roommate, partner or friend is HIV-positive.

Landlords must allow reasonable accommodations to help people living with HIV/AIDS to enjoy their apartment.

You have the right to make small physical changes to your apartment that will allow you to live comfortably with any disabilities you may have. But you must tell the landlord before you make any changes.

Examples of HIV/AIDS Housing Discrimination.

All of the examples below are illegal:

A policy or advertisement that the landlord will not rent to HIV-positive people.
Charging higher rent for HIV-positive people.

A landlord asking about a tenant's HIV status, or the HIV status of a tenant's guest.

Refusing to show an HIV-positive buyer a house that is for sale because of the buyer's HIV status.