

Marital Status & Discrimination - Your Rights

Is It Against the Law to Discriminate Against People Because of Their Marital Status?

Yes. Under the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination it is generally against the law to treat you differently or harass you because of your particular marital status - that is, because you are:

- single
- married
- separated
- divorced or
- widowed

It Is Against the Law for Someone to Discriminate Against You Because of Your Particular Marital Status:

- in employment
- when you try to buy or receive goods or services
- when you try to rent or buy housing or real estate
- when you apply to or are studying in most schools or colleges
- when you try to join an organization that is open to the general public
- when you try to enjoy facilities offered to the general public

What Can I Do If I'm Treated Differently Or Harassed Because Of My Marital Status?

Read through this factsheet to check that what's happened seems to be against the law. If you aren't sure if it's against the law, phone us to check on your rights.

If what's happened seems to be against the law, try talking to the person or organization that is discriminating against you. Explain that you think that it's against the law.

If this doesn't work, or isn't appropriate phone or visit us at the Division on Civil Rights Regional Office closest to where you live or where the discrimination occurred. Our address and phone numbers are at the end of this factsheet.

We have the legal power to investigate your complaint if its filed within 180 days of the last act of alleged discrimination or of your finding out that you have been treated unlawfully. The Division will try to conciliate your claim. This means that we will try to help you and the person or organization you are complaining about reach a private settlement. Whether there can be a conciliation will depend on the circumstances of your case.

Our services are free. It's against the law for anyone to hassle or victimize you because you've complained to us.

If your complaint is not conciliated, you may go to a hearing before the Office of Administrative Law - a proceeding that provides a recommendation to the Director of the Division on Civil Rights. The Director then issues a final order that must be followed, unless it is successfully appealed to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey.

You may also have the right to file a lawsuit in state court or to file a claim with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, if you have been discriminated against in employment.

For more information or to file a complaint, contact the office nearest your work or home. See the other side of this fact sheet for contact information.

CIVIL RIGHTS

For More Information

The Department of Law & Public Safety, through its Division on Civil Rights, is responsible for enforcing the law. To file a complaint, contact or visit the office nearest you:

Atlantic City Satellite Office:

26 Pennsylvania Avenue, Atlantic City, NJ 08401

Phone: (609) 441-3100

Fax: (609) 441-3578

Camden Regional Office:

One Port Center, 4th Floor, Suite 402

2 Riverside Drive, Camden, NJ 08103

Phone: (856) 614-2550

Fax: (856) 614-2568

TDD# (609) 757-2958

Newark Regional Office:

31 Clinton Street, Newark, NJ 07102

Phone: (973) 648-2700

Fax: (973) 648-4405 / (973) 648-7582

TDD# (973) 648-4678

Paterson Regional Office:

100 Hamilton Plaza, Paterson, NJ 07501

Phone: (973) 977-4500

Fax: (973) 977-4511

TDD# (973) 977-1955

Trenton Regional Office:

140 East Front Street / P.O. Box 090

Trenton, NJ 08625-0090

Phone: (609) 292-4605

Fax: (609) 984-3812

TDD# (609) 292-1785

Visit our web site at www.NJCivilRights.org