

Help Stop Discrimination

Even if you are not the victim of housing discrimination, you can help BNI help others who are.

Become a Fair Housing Tester!

Are you a US citizen, 21 years of age or older, with no prior criminal record and reliable transportation who can speak read and write English? Consider becoming a BNI tester!

Testing is not difficult:

- We'll train you at your convenience (it takes about 2 hours)
- Test assignments are arranged for your convenience. You'll spend as little or as much time as you wish testing.
- You will be paid a small stipend for each test you complete, and you will be reimbursed for your mileage to and from the test site.
- You'll be on the front line in the fight against housing discrimination.

_____ **YES!** I want to be a tester for BNI

_____ I think I am interested in being a tester, but I would like more information.

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Please return to:

BNI Fair Housing Dept.
2217 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21218



**For More Information,
Contact Us
(410)243-4400**

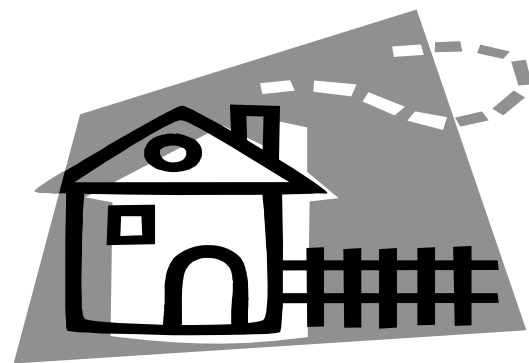
BALTIMORE NEIGHBORHOODS, INC.

www.bni-maryland.org

BNI
2217 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21218

Working for Justice in Housing

**ISN'T
THAT
ILLEGAL?**



**Recognizing the Faces
of Housing
Discrimination**

Baltimore Neighborhoods,
Inc.

WHERE YOU LIVE IS YOUR CHOICE!

Federal, State and local laws protect you from discrimination when you are looking for a place to live *and* while you live there.

Under **FEDERAL LAW**, it is illegal to discriminate in the sale, rental, financing, insuring, or advertising of real estate on the basis of:

- Race
- Color
- National Origin
- Sex
- Religion
- Physical or Mental Disability
- Familial Status

Maryland law, Baltimore City, and other local jurisdictions provide additional protections.

Call the BNI Fair Housing Department at 410-243-4400 for more information.

WHAT IS HOUSING DISCRIMINATION?

It is illegal to:

- Refuse to rent, sell or negotiate [with a customer] for housing.
“I’m sorry, but I must have misplaced your papers.” **Stall tactics designed to avoid renting or selling are illegal.**

- Deny that housing is available when in fact it is.

“I’m sorry, but that apartment was just rented.” **It is illegal to falsely deny that housing is available in order to avoid renting or selling.**

- Require different terms or conditions.

“You’ll have to pay a larger deposit and an extra \$25 per month because your wheelchair might damage the unit.” **It is illegal to impose a lease or other housing arrangement on one person, which is not the same as that for other tenants. Additionally, landlord must allow reasonable accommodations for tenants with disabilities.**

- Steer renters or buyers to a particular area or neighborhood.

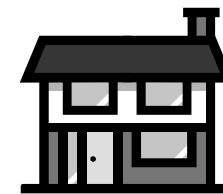
“I think you’ll be more comfortable living in this neighborhood [where most people are of the same race].” **Steering a person to or from a neighborhood is illegal.**

- Engage in blockbusting: the practice of inducing homeowners to sell their properties by making representations regarding the entry or prospective entry of persons of another race or national origin into the neighborhood.

“This neighborhood is changing, you know. I can sell your house for you, if you want to get



out while you have a chance.” **Comments that prey on fears of racial change may indicate illegal blockbusting.**



HOW BNI CAN HELP

BNI can advise you on the remedies available including:

- Negotiate to end discriminatory practices
- Referral to federal state or local agencies
- Private lawsuit
- BNI staff may investigate your complaint using volunteer testers
- BNI can give you information on how to encourage the development of integrated neighborhoods.

For more information, call 410-243-4400 or e-mail fairhousing@bni-maryland.org.