

BNI

Working for Justice in Housing

Guide to Local, State and Federal Laws Governing Tenant-Landlord Relations

**including laws prohibiting
discrimination in housing**



State of Maryland Edition — May 2013

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ABOUT US

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BNI is a statewide nonprofit organization established in 1959 to promote justice in housing for all people in the State of Maryland through fair housing and tenant-landlord programs and public information activities.

BNI's purpose is to:

1. Maintain viable interracial communities by

- Providing advice and assistance on how to maintain neighborhood diversity.
- Fighting blockbusting, racial steering, and racial harassment in cooperation with other appropriate agencies.

2. Create an open housing market by

- Educating the public and the housing industry as to state, federal, and local laws forbidding discrimination by reason of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, physical or mental handicap.
- Encouraging all home seekers to consider the total housing market.
- Upholding fair housing laws by investigating complaints of housing discrimination and by monitoring the sale and rental of housing.

3. Improve tenant-landlord relations by

- Mediating disputes between tenants and landlords.
- Giving advice and information to landlords and tenants on tenant/landlord issues.
- Encouraging the formation of tenant organizations.

DISCLAIMER

This manual offers legal information and is not legal advice. This information does not take the place of consulting with an attorney who can apply the law to your individual circumstances. The reader is cautioned to seek proper legal advice before using or relying upon any information provided in this manual. BNI makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information but does not warrant that the materials are completely error-free, up-to-date or comprehensive.

LOCAL LAWS AND HOUSING CODES

This edition of BNI's *Guide to State and Federal Laws Governing Tenant-Landlord Relations* may not provide information on the local laws and housing code for your particular county. Please check with your county council for local laws applicable to residential rental properties and your county housing code office for building code requirements.

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Help Us Improve This Guide!

BNI is committed to ensuring that this guide is accurate, error-free and meets the needs of our users. Please contact us at 410-243-4468 or email info@bni-md.org if you notice any errors or have suggestions for improvement.

MARYLAND STATE GUIDE

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