



## THE FAIR HOUSING FLASH

### Spring 2020

The Tampa Bay Fair Housing Consortium's mission is to affirmatively further fair housing through quality fair housing education and outreach programs in all Tampa Bay communities and to celebrate the right of all persons to live in a strong, sustainable and inclusive community.

#### **WHO WE ARE**

The Tampa Bay Fair Housing Consortium is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization governed by a Board of Directors dedicated to the elimination of discrimination in housing, with an emphasis on communities within the Tampa Bay region.

Providing education and outreach for more than sixteen (16) years, the Tampa Bay Fair Housing Consortium's mission is to affirmatively further fair housing through quality fair housing education and outreach in all Tampa Bay communities, and to celebrate the right of all persons to live in a strong, sustainable and inclusive community.

Through various efforts, such as our Annual Fair Housing Symposium and future Landlord/Tenant workshops, we hope to better carry out our mission through educating the public on relevant fair housing issues in our communities.

These efforts offer an opportunity to better educate service providers, real estate practitioners, bankers, attorneys, landlords and property owners as well as the public on Fair Housing.

As we continue to strengthen our efforts to educate the various sectors of the housing market on fair housing practices, we rely on support from partners like you.

The **Tampa Bay Fair Housing Consortium** strongly believes that we, as a community, are stronger when we are inclusive and when all people are free from housing discrimination.



#### **Members of the Tampa Bay Fair Housing Consortium are:**

Bay Area Apartment Association, Bay Area Legal Services, the Cities of Clearwater, Largo, Pinellas Park, St. Petersburg, and Tampa, Gulf Coast Legal Services, Hillsborough County, the Pinellas County Office of Human Rights, the Pinellas Realtor® Organization, and the Tampa Housing Authority.



## Q & A SESSION

**Q: I lost my job because of the COVID-19 emergency, and I'm behind on my rent. Can my landlord evict me?**

A: No. If you are behind on your rent because of the COVID-19 emergency, the landlord may not evict you while the Order applies. Currently, the Order applies through May 17, 2020; it might be extended.

**Q: I have a section 8 voucher. How does the Order COVID-19 Executive Order apply to me?**

A: Your tenancy is governed by federal law – the new CARES Act. This federal law applies to evictions if your landlord gets federal assistance. The CARES Act prohibits evictions for non-payment of rent through July 27, 2020. It's a good idea to check with your caseworker. If your income changes because you lost your job, your rent payments may be lowered.

**Q: What if I am being evicted due to reasons other than failure to pay rent?**

A: If you are being evicted for a reason other than failure to pay rent, the Order does not apply to you.



## HOW CAN I REPORT HOUSING DISCRIMINATION?

If the discriminatory incident happened with the city limits of Tampa, call their Office of Human Rights and Community Services at (813) 274-5835.

If the discriminatory incident happened in unincorporated Hillsborough County, Temple Terrace or Plant City, File a complaint or call (813) 272-6554.

Contact the Pinellas County Office of Human Rights 727-464-4880 or 727-552-2590.

Contact Bay Area Legal Services (800) 625-2257.

Contact Gulf Coast Legal Services, offices located in downtown St Pete (Pinellas), Wimauma (Hillsborough), and Bradenton (Manatee), (727-821-0726).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

From: Tampa Bay Fair Housing Consortium, Inc. (TBFHC)

To: Registrants/Interested Attendees of TBFHC's April 29, 2020 Fair Housing Symposium

**Re: Postponement of April 29, 2020 Fair Housing Symposium**

Date: April 8, 2020

Registrant/Interested Attendee:

We hope you and your families are healthy and bearing up under these unprecedented times.

Governor DeSantis's Executive Order 20-91, dated April 1, 2020, renders our April 29, 2020, Fair Housing Symposium impossible to be conducted in-person. We gave long and hard consideration to conducting our symposium via an on-line platform, consistent with the adjustments many of you are making during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Ultimately, however, we believed that we could not deliver to you the quality of content, information, and networking opportunities our in-person symposium provides.

Therefore, the TBFHC is postponing the April 29, 2020, Fair Housing Symposium to a later date to be ascertained by our board. We will advise you of our alternative date - whether this year or next - as soon as it is known.

If you have already registered and paid to attend our symposium, please know we will be issuing you a full refund as soon as we are able.

Recognizing the importance of the information you were to receive at our symposium, we will do our best to post relevant fair housing information and materials on our website as they are developed (and as the obligations of our member agencies to their stakeholders allow). We encourage you to visit our website regularly at [www.tbfhc.org](http://www.tbfhc.org) for such updates – including our periodic newsletter.

We wish that you, yours, and those you serve stay well during these extraordinary times.

Respectfully,

Angela Emerson, President

Tampa Bay Fair Housing Consortium, Inc., a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

**Fair Housing Month 2020**

This year the Nation will celebrate the 52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act.

HUD's theme, *"Call HUD Because Sexual Harassment in Housing is Illegal"* is a standing call-to-action message that encourages the public to contact HUD or local fair housing partners to report sexual or other forms of harassment in housing.

We continue to improve the customer experience by updating our fair housing outreach materials with cutting-edge designs in various formats. Now, education and outreach print ads fit standard letter (8.5 x11) and legal (11x14) paper sizes.

Visit the FHEO Outreach Tools Page at [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/fair\\_housing\\_equal\\_opp/marketing](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/marketing) where you may search for and download HUD's fair housing print ads, for free.

We wish you success in your outreach efforts during 2020 Fair Housing Month!

For more information about HUD's Fair Housing Month activities, please send an email to [FHEO\\_EO@hud.gov](mailto:FHEO_EO@hud.gov). We will respond within 48 hours.

Follow us on Social Media

#CALLHUD #SexualHarassment #EndSexualHarassmentInHousing

**CALL HUD**  
BECAUSE SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN HOUSING IS ILLEGAL  
1-800-689-9777 / 1-800-877-8339 TTY  
WWW.HUD.GOV

Fair Housing Awareness

HARASSMENT IN HOUSING BASED ON RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RELIGION, SEX, DISABILITY, OR FAMILY STATUS IS ILLEGAL. IF YOU BELIEVE YOU'VE EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATORY HARASSMENT, CONTACT HUD TO REPORT IT.

## CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

