

## RESOURCES

If you feel you have been discriminated against or your fair housing rights have been violated, you can contact:

### HUD Housing Discrimination Hotline

1.800.877.7353 – Toll Free  
TTY 303.672.5248

### Montana Fair Housing

1.800.929.2611  
MT Relay for Hearing Impaired: 711

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This brochure is not meant to replace legal advice. If you need legal help, you can contact:

### Montana Legal Services

1.800.666.6899

### Montana Law Help

[www.montanalawhelp.org](http://www.montanalawhelp.org)

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Below are some additional resources for persons living with HIV/AIDS and caregivers.

### AIDSpirit USA

[www.aidspirit.org](http://www.aidspirit.org)

### RiverStone Health

406.247.3200



[www.yapmt.org](http://www.yapmt.org)



2906 1st Avenue North, Suite 200  
Billings, MT 59101  
406.245.2029



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# POSITIVE HOUSING FAIR HOUSING RIGHTS FOR PERSONS LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS



Living with HIV/AIDS can create many challenges. Finding and maintaining fair housing should not be one of those challenges. Therefore, this brochure is designed to provide some basic information about the Fair Housing rights of persons living with HIV/AIDS.

# FAIR HOUSING

It's Your Right.



## WHO IS PROTECTED?

Landlords are not allowed to deny housing or treat anyone differently based on the following:

### Federal Fair Housing

- Disability (includes HIV/AIDS)
- Race/Color
- Religion
- Sex
- Familial Status
- National Origin

### Montana Fair Housing

- Marital Status
- Creed
- Age

For the purposes of fair housing, HIV is considered a disability. Therefore, a landlord cannot deny housing or treat a person differently based on HIV status.

## WHAT DOES DISCRIMINATION LOOK LIKE?

Housing discrimination involves a landlord treating someone differently based on their protected status. Specific examples of discrimination may include:

- Advertising availability only to certain people
- Telling a person housing is not available when it is
- Harassing, intimidating, or retaliating

Along with the above examples, persons living with HIV/AIDS may also face other types of discrimination, such as:

- Having special restrictions imposed that are not imposed upon other tenants; such as being denied access to a pool, hot tub, or other shared space.
- Refusing to show or rent due to HIV/AIDS status.
- Steering, or directing a person to more "appropriate" housing



## REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS/ MODIFICATIONS

Landlords are required to make reasonable accommodations and modifications needed due to a person's disability. An accommodation involves changes to policies or practices while modifications involve structural changes.

A landlord must allow these changes if they are reasonable and directly relate to the tenant's disability. However, the tenant may be responsible for expenses.

Common Accommodations and Modifications requested by persons living with HIV/AIDS may include:

- Waiving a policy to allow for a companion or service animal.
- Installing ramps or handrails when needed to deal with physical constraints.
- Allowing an extra assigned parking space for a personal aide.
- Waiving a no air conditioner policy to help deal with HIV related heat concerns.