

Discrimination

Discrimination is what happens to people when they are treated differently because of the color of their skin, the country they were born in, their age, their physical or mental disabilities, their height or weight, the religion they practice, or because they are boys or girls.

Differences do exist between people, but we have so much more in common.

In your classroom, there are many different kinds of children. There are many sizes, both boys and girls, those with curly and straight hair, and different eye and skin colors.

Examples

If you and your friends won't hang out with some kids just because they look different, you are discriminating.

If an adult applies for a job, and doesn't get hired because of skin color, age, or because she is a woman, she is being discriminated against.

If your family wants to rent an apartment, but the landlord says he doesn't rent to couples with children, your family may be experiencing discrimination.

Is This Fair?

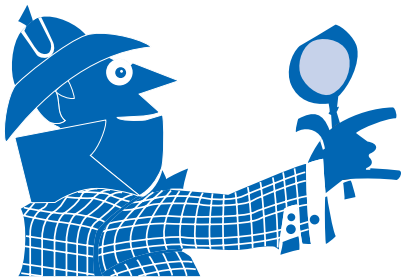
If you are attending Michigan schools, and live in the state of Michigan, you are a Michigan resident. There

are two laws in Michigan that protect Michigan residents from discrimination. They are the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act and the Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act.

These acts make it against the law for anyone to discriminate against you because of your religion, race, color, national origin, age, gender, marital status, height, weight, arrest record or disability. These things cannot be used to discriminate against people in jobs, education, housing, public buildings or services provided to the public. These laws protect your civil rights. Civil rights protect Michigan residents from discrimination.

MDCR

The Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) was created in 1965 to protect our civil rights. The department does this by teaching others about Michigan's two civil rights laws. Also, when Michigan residents have been discriminated against, they can report it to the department. MDCR has investigators, who work like detectives, to find out if unlawful discrimination has occurred. The department can help the person who was discriminated against.



For information on your rights, you may call the Michigan Department of Civil Rights at 1-800-482-3604

TTY users: 1-877-878-8464

You may also go to the web site for information at www.michigan.gov/mdcr



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What Is Discrimination?