

# FAIR HOUSING COMPLAINT PROCESS



## WHERE TO DIRECT MSHDA FAIR HOUSING POLICY & PROGRAM COMPLAINTS?

MSHDA staff may direct complaints to:

**HAYWOOD EDWARDS**  
Strategist, Inclusion Specialist  
517-241-6573  
EdwardsH3@michigan.gov

**KARA HART-NEGRICH**  
Staff Attorney  
517-335-2273  
HartNegrichK@michigan.gov

**KATHY QUIGLEY**  
Paralegal  
517-335-2134  
QuigleyK@michigan.gov

## WHAT IS FAIR HOUSING?

Title VIII of the U.S. Civil Rights Act, commonly known as the "Fair Housing Act" prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, purchase, leasing, financing and/or advertising of housing based upon race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and sexual harassment), national origin, familial status and disability. Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act also prohibits housing discrimination based on age and marital status. Further restrictions may also be imposed by municipalities pursuant to local ordinance.

## WHO CAN FILE A FAIR HOUSING COMPLAINT?

Anyone! Fair housing complaints can be filed by any entity, including individuals and community organizations. The person or organization filing the complaint is known as the Complainant. The Respondent is the person or entity against whom the fair housing complaint is filed.

## WHAT IS MSHDA'S PROCESS FOR HANDLING FAIR HOUSING COMPLAINTS?

The Legal Affairs Division of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA or the Authority) provides legal counsel to the Authority and its employees acting in the capacity of their duties only; consequently, the Authority's Legal Affairs Division is unable to provide

legal advice to third parties. A variety of legal resources are available for individuals seeking legal counsel, and the State Bar of Michigan maintains an online Lawyer Search at [IRS.michbar.org/Find-a-Lawyer](http://IRS.michbar.org/Find-a-Lawyer).

If the Complainant believes that they are the victim of unlawful discrimination, the Complainant may contact the Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), or their local Fair Housing Center to file a complaint. A map is provided below with agencies' contact information for filing a complaint.

If the Complainant lives in a MSHDA financed development, is applying to live in a MSHDA financed development or otherwise participates in a MSHDA program and believes that they are the victim of housing discrimination, they may contact Kara Hart-Negrich at 517-335-2273 or email her at [HartNegrichK@michigan.gov](mailto:HartNegrichK@michigan.gov).

## WHERE SHOULD INDIVIDUALS BE DIRECTED IF THEY HAVE FAIR HOUSING QUESTIONS?

Individuals with fair housing questions should be directed to their local Fair Housing Center, MDCR, HUD or seek private legal counsel. Entities doing business with MSHDA who have project or program related questions should direct questions to their MSHDA contact.

**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**  
800-669-9777  
[www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov)

**Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR)**  
800-482-3604  
[www.michigan.gov/mdcr](http://www.michigan.gov/mdcr)

- **Fair Housing Center of West Michigan**  
20 Hall Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507  
616-451-2980 | 866-389-FAIR (3247)  
[www.fhcmw.org](http://www.fhcmw.org)
- **Legal Services of Eastern Michigan**  
436 Saginaw Street #101, Flint, MI 48502  
800-322-4512  
[www.lsem-mi.org](http://www.lsem-mi.org)
- **Fair Housing Center of Southwest Michigan**  
405 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
269-276-9100 | 866-637-0733  
[www.fhcswm.org](http://www.fhcswm.org)
- **Fair Housing Center of Southeast-Mid Michigan**  
P.O. Box 7825, Ann Arbor, MI 48107  
877-979-FAIR (3247)  
[www.fhcmichigan.org](http://www.fhcmichigan.org)
- **Fair Housing Center of Metro-Detroit**  
5555 Conner Street, Suite 2244, Detroit, MI 48213  
313-579-FAIR (3247)  
[www.fairhousingdetroit.org](http://www.fairhousingdetroit.org)