



BEAVER COUNTY
ASSOCIATION OF
REALTORS®

April Is Fair Housing Month

Beaver County – April marks the start of Fair Housing Month, which commemorates the 55th anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act.

Every year, Realtors® vow to continue to commit to helping each and every person looking to achieve the goal of owning or renting a property.

The federal Fair Housing Act states that everyone should have the right to choose where they want to live and makes it illegal to discriminate in housing-related transactions based on seven protected classes: race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability and familial status. Additionally, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act protects against housing discrimination in the commonwealth and includes two additional protected classes: age (over 40) and users, handlers or trainers of assistance animals for persons with disabilities.

“Everyone searching for housing deserves to be treated fairly and equally,” said Beaver County Association of Realtors® President Denise Molchen-Donnelly. “As Realtors®, in addition to adhering to the Fair Housing Act, we agree to follow the National Association of Realtors®’ Code of Ethics. By committing to the code, we are promising to not discriminate against anyone who is looking for housing.”

When going through the homebuying process, discrimination can come at any step, from looking to get pre-approved for a mortgage to signing up for homeowners’ insurance after closing. How do you know if you have been discriminated against? Seek opinions from different professionals.

“By looking at different options, you could see if a specific company or person is treating you differently,” said Molchen-Donnelly. “You can also reach out to friends and family for recommendations.”

“Realtors® are here to guide consumers to make one of the biggest purchases of their lives,” she added. “We are dedicated to helping people achieve the American dream of homeownership.”

If consumers believe they have experienced a fair housing issue, they should contact the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission at phrc.pa.gov.