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CIVIL RIGHTS BUREAU

The Attorney General's Civil Rights Bureau protects the civil rights of all Illinois residents. The Bureau enforces civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination, works to strengthen the civil rights laws, and participates in community outreach programs. The Bureau also investigates complaints of patterns and practices of discrimination in housing, public accommodations, employment, and financial matters.

The Civil Rights Bureau:

- **Reviews and responds to constituent complaints** received by the Attorney General involving civil rights issues;
- **Conducts** investigations of possible civil rights violations based upon patterns or practices of discrimination that have a significant impact in Illinois;
- **Files lawsuits** when an investigation deems that such action is warranted;
- **Monitors and proposes legislation and administrative rules** that involve civil rights issues with a view toward making recommendations to strengthen the laws.

Classes protected from discrimination include: Race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, order of protection status, physical or mental disability, unfavorable discharge from military, and military status.

Unlawful discrimination in **employment** also includes discrimination based on "English only" policies, sexual harassment, and discrimination based on citizenship status or arrest records.

Unlawful discrimination in **housing** also includes discrimination based on a person's familial status. "Familial status" means a household with children under 18 who live with a parent or guardian. This also includes households with persons who are pregnant or in the process of securing custody of an individual under 18.

Filing a complaint: You may file a complaint by calling the Civil Rights Bureau at 1-877-581-3692 or filling out a complaint form located on the Illinois Attorney General's website at <https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/Rights-of-the-People/civil-rights/> and submitting the complaint to the Civil Rights Bureau at 115 S. LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603 or faxing it to (312) 814-3212.