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New Fair Housing Guidebook for Property Owners and Managers

Got a fair housing question? Worrying whether a tenancy action might violate fair housing laws? Has a tenant accused you of discrimination and wondering what to do next?

A free guidebook is now available for property owners and managers, titled Fair Housing in Washington State: Top 100 Frequently Asked Questions & Answers for Property Owners and Managers. Published by the Fair Housing Agencies of Washington State, this manual outlines the basics of fair housing laws, offers guidance of establishing nondiscriminatory rental policies and provides technical assistance for problematic common situations.

This handbook is organized to follow the normal flow of rental business, starting with advertising and the application and screening process, and moving on to tenancy rules, evictions, etc. Other chapters address special topics, such as issues involving families with children, harassment, people with disabilities and more. The question and answer format makes the booklet easy to navigate, so you can quickly find the answer you need. The Fair Housing Agencies recommend that every property manager and owner have this valuable resource on their office shelf. For copies of this free guidebook, contact the King County Office of Civil Rights (KCOCR) by calling 206-296-7592 (TTY 296-7596) or civilrights.ORG@metrokc.gov.

Want fair housing training for your staff?

Free 3-hour workshops are offered four times a year at the Jackson Federal Building in downtown Seattle. For more information visit www.metrokc.gov/dias/ocre/qtrtrain.htm.

The Fair Housing Agencies of Washington State have developed a series of free sample policies: Tenant on Tenant harassment, Reasonable Accommodations for People with Disabilities. You can duplicate these policies for use at your properties or treat them as guidelines for drafting your own procedures. Available online at www.metrokc.gov/dias/ocre/FHpolicies.htm

Obtained from WA State Fair Housing Update

City of Tacoma human Rights and Human Services 18th Annual Fair Housing Conference

“Current Trends in Fair Housing”

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Featured topics include:

- ~ Predatory Lending
- ~ Advertising
- ~ Policy/Rule Making
- ~ Domestic Violence
- ~ Crime Free Housing.. And more

6.5 continuing education clock hours provided through Clover Park Technical College

Cost: \$65 per person To Register call (253) 591-5151

Here is a Website for those in search of Affordable housing in Washington State

Check out www.aptfinder.org

Raise The Rent and Drop The Deposit

There are different strategies landlords use to raise the rent so that residents will not be upset. One idea I read recently suggested returning a part of the security deposit (i.e., \$100) on the resident’s anniversary date at the same time the rent is being increased. Thus, to help residents not feel a little insecure about the rent increase and staying in you rental, give them back a little.



ORCA WISDOM

Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do

John Wooden