

**EQUAL
OPPORTUNITIES
COMMISSION
(EOC)**

Fr. Brian Beno
Member

Karyn Merkel
Member

Heather Pedersen
Member

Laura Schwartzburg
Member

Santo Soto, Jr.
Member

For More Information

Call 322-3440

**Equal
Opportunities
Commission**



City of Fond du Lac

A decorative footer bar consisting of a series of alternating dark teal and black squares.

WHAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT FAIR HOUSING

Housing plays a large role in defining a person’s quality of life. Where you live affects your access to social, cultural, educational and many other community amenities such as schools, transportation, employment, medical services, retail and professional services, recreational and entertainment opportunities and much more. Housing discrimination is an illegal obstacle to housing choice and denies people the opportunity to fully experience and enjoy the “American Dream” of choosing, owning and being responsible for their own house and home.

It is for this reason that the Fair Housing Act and other federal and state laws were enacted to guarantee a right to a national housing market free from discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, and national origin.

THE LAW

Civil Rights Act of 1866—The Civil Rights Act of 1866 prohibits all racial discrimination in the sale or rental of property.

Fair Housing Act—With the enactment of the US Civil Rights Act of 1968, fair housing rights became a federal law. Title VIII of the Act, as amended by Congress in 1988 prohibits discrimination based upon race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin of those seeking housing.

In the City of Fond du Lac, Section 9.13 of the Municipal Code prohibits discrimination in housing and public accommodations:

...Discrimination against any of the City’s citizens or visitors endangers the rights and privileges of all. The denial of equal opportunity intensifies group conflict, undermines the foundation of our democratic society and adversely affects the general welfare of the community...

PROTECTED GROUPS

The following characteristics cannot be used in assessing a persons qualifications for housing:

- Sex
- Race
- Color
- Sexual Orientation
- Disability
- Religion
- National Origin
- Sex or marital status of the person maintaining a household
- Lawful source of income
- Age
- Ancestry
- Familial Status



EQUAL OPPORTUNITES COMMISSION (EOC)

The Equal Opportunities Commission conducts investigations and hold hearings on complaints involving the denial of equal opportunities because of age, sex, race, color, disability, religion, national origin, marital status, ancestry or lawful source of income, or sexual orientation. In addition to investigations, the EOC studies the existence of discrimination and makes recommendations to individuals and City officials with regard to the elimination of such discrimination including changes to City policies and ordinances.

IF YOU SUSPECT DISCRIMINATION

- Contact Dyann Benson, Community Development Director, at 322-3440. If it is within the guidelines of the City Ordinance, you will be encouraged to file a formal written complaint.
- Your complaint will be investigated by a qualified investigator who will make a report to the City’s Equal Opportunity Commission (EOC)
- The EOC will make a determination of “probable cause.” In other words, they will decide if discrimination may have occurred and then attempt to reconcile the matter. If successful, a written settlement agreement is then drafted for both parties to sign.

