

# CALIFORNIA PROTECTS THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF LGBTQ+ PEOPLE



Civil Rights  
Department  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## FACT SHEET

In California, LGBTQ+ people have equal civil rights, dignity, and worth. The Civil Rights Department (CRD) is here to help.

It is unlawful for employers, landlords, businesses of all kinds, health care providers and insurers, homeless shelters, state-funded programs and services, and others to discriminate against anyone or treat them unequally because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or sex. Similarly, it is against the law to assault or threaten anyone (or their property) with violence because of these characteristics.

If you have experienced discrimination or violence because you are, or are perceived to be, or are a friend or family member of an LGBTQ+ person (or any other sexual orientation or gender identity), file a complaint with CRD. Likewise, if you have experienced

discrimination or violence because of how you express your gender, such as the clothes you choose to wear or how you do your hair, file a complaint with CRD.

And, don't forget that California law protects everyone (including LGBTQ+ people) from discrimination and violence based on race, national origin, disability, and other protected characteristics.

### ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES OF UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION

- **A state-funded program for small businesses turns you away because of bias against transgender and/or lesbian women of color**
- **A bank gives you less favorable loan terms or denies you a loan because you have a same-sex partner who doesn't speak English and is an immigrant**
- **A housing provider tries to evict you because you have a Section 8 voucher and a pride flag in your window**
- **An employer won't even consider your application for a job because you're an older LGBTQ+ person**

### EXAMPLES OF UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION/VIOLENCE

- **Your co-workers harass you because you're gay or bisexual**
- **Your employer prohibits you from using the restroom consistent with your gender identity**
- **A hotel or restaurant that regularly hosts weddings refuses to host your wedding to someone of the same sex**
- **A health care provider treats you unequally because you're lesbian or gender non-binary**
- **A state-funded youth program fails to stop bullying of you because of how you express your gender**
- **A landlord won't rent to you because your child appears to be LGBTQ+**
- **Staff at a homeless shelter treats you unequally because they think you are LGBTQ+**
- **Your neighbor keys your car because he doesn't approve of your "lifestyle"**

### TO FILE A COMPLAINT

#### Civil Rights Department

[calcivilrights.ca.gov/complaintprocess](http://calcivilrights.ca.gov/complaintprocess)

Toll Free: 800.884.1684

TTY: 800.700.2320

If you have a disability that requires a reasonable accommodation, CRD can assist you by phone or, for individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing or have speech disabilities, through the California Relay Service (711), or you can contact us below.