

# CALIFORNIA PROTECTS THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY AND VETERANS



Civil Rights  
Department  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## FACT SHEET

### **IN CALIFORNIA, MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY AND VETERANS ARE PROTECTED FROM DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT IN EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, AND BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS.**

It is unlawful for employers, landlords, businesses of all kinds, health care providers and insurers, homeless shelters, and others to discriminate against anyone or harass them because of their military or veteran status.

Under California law, military and veteran status includes being a member or veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, U.S. Armed Forces Reserve, U.S. National Guard, or California National Guard, or being perceived as one. The law also forbids discrimination against someone because they associate with a member of the military or a veteran, such as veteran's spouse or child.

If you have experienced discrimination or harassment because you are, are perceived to be, or associate with a member of the military or veteran, file a complaint with the Civil Rights Department (CRD), California's civil rights agency. And, don't forget that California law protects everyone (including members of the military and veterans) from discrimination and harassment based on race, national origin, disability, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, and other protected characteristics.

### **EXAMPLES OF UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION**

- An employer won't consider your application or denies you a promotion because you served in the military
- Your co-workers or superiors harass you because you are a woman who served in the military
- Your employer denies you a reasonable accommodation for your disability because you are a veteran
- A landlord won't rent to you because you are a member of the military
- Staff at a homeless shelter treats you unequally because they perceive you to be a veteran
- A used car dealership gives you less favorable loan terms because you are a same-sex spouse of someone in the military
- A restaurant denies you service because you arrive with a member of the military

### **POTENTIAL REMEDIES**

- Compensation for losses and emotional distress
- Training and policy changes to prevent future discrimination
- Making available previously denied housing
- Hiring, reinstatement, or promotion
- Other remedies, such as penalties, fines, reporting, or monitoring

### **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