

McKean County Association of Realtors®
30 Fraley Street
Kane, PA 16735

April 5, 2021

Fair Housing Month

MCKEAN COUNTY – The federal Fair Housing Act protects the rights of all Americans by preventing discrimination when people are renting or buying a home. Every April, Realtors® recommit to continuing fair and equitable treatment for everyone in search of a home.

Enacted in 1968, the act bans discrimination in housing-related transactions based on seven protected classes: race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability and familial status. The Pennsylvania Human Relations Act protects against housing discrimination in the commonwealth and includes two additional protected classes: age (over 40) and users, handlers or trainers of assistance animals for persons with disabilities.

“Realtors® follow a Code of Ethics under the National Association of Realtors®, which means we agree to always fairly treat all clients,” said McKean County Association of Realtors® President Linda Lake. “It is something we take very seriously. We believe everyone has the right to choose where they would like to and can afford to live.”

A person’s home buying experience goes beyond just working with a Realtor®. Discrimination can also happen with mortgage lenders, appraisals and homeowners’ insurance when they treat someone different because of their race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or because they have children in their family. “Redlining” is also a form of discrimination when banks and insurance companies deny services to residents of certain areas based on the race or national origin of the residents in the neighborhood where their homes are located.

“Consumers should seek out different opinions from other companies to ensure they are getting a fair rate,” said Lake. “Your Realtor® can provide suggestions, as can family and friends.”

“Buying or selling a home is one of the biggest financial decisions of your life,” she added. “Getting treated fairly is of utmost importance. A Realtor’s® job is to ensure that happens.”

If consumers believe they have experienced a fair housing issue, they should contact the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission at phrc.pa.gov.

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The McKean County Association of Realtors is the voice for real estate in McKean County.