

# Civil Rights Protections

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Many people are unaware of what civil rights protections they have under both Federal and State law. People have the right to be free from discrimination in matters related to employment, education, housing, public accommodation, law enforcement, and public service.

Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, Public Act 453 of 1976, provides that "The opportunity to obtain employment, housing and other real estate, and the full and equal utilization of public accommodations, public service, and educational facilities without discrimination because of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, familial status, or marital status . . . is recognized and declared to be a civil right." Likewise, the Federal Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, and national origin in areas including public accommodation and employment.

Numerous other laws establish certain protections, and it is imperative that individuals know their rights if they feel they have been subjected to unlawful discrimination. The following organizations may be able to help you resolve your civil rights concerns:

**Legal Services of Eastern Michigan** - [www.lsem-mi.org](http://www.lsem-mi.org)  
**Fair Housing Center of Eastern Michigan** [www.lsem-mi.org/fair-housing](http://www.lsem-mi.org/fair-housing)

**Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) –**  
<https://www.michigan.gov/mdcr/0,4613,7-138-4951-9283--,00.html>  
Filing an MDCR Complaint - [https://www.michigan.gov/mdcr/0,4613,7-138-42240\\_43561-153171--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mdcr/0,4613,7-138-42240_43561-153171--,00.html)  
State Laws - <https://www.michigan.gov/mdcr/0,4613,7-138-69583---,00.html>

**Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) -**  
<https://www.eeoc.gov/overview>  
Filing an EEOC Complaint - <https://www.eeoc.gov/federal-sector/filing-formal-complaint>  
Federal Laws - <https://www.eeoc.gov/laws-guidance-0>