

Township of Abington: Human Relations Commission

On April 12, 2012, the Township of Abington's Board of Commissioners passed an amendment to the township code to provide for the creation of the Abington Township Human Relations Commission. Under this ordinance, discrimination is prohibited in housing, commercial property, employment, and public accommodations on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, age, familial status, religious creed, ancestry, sex, national origin, handicap or disability, use of guide or support animals because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals, or because of an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

If you live or work in the Township of Abington and feel you have been discriminated against based on being a part of any "protected class" established by the ordinance, you can contact the Township's Human Relations Commission by sending an email to HRC@AbingtonPA.gov. A member of the Human Relations Commission will contact you to discuss your concern, determine whether you are a member of a protected class, and send you a complaint form.

The complaint form asks for:

- ❖ Your name, address, telephone number, and email (if applicable)
- ❖ The name, address, telephone number, and email (if applicable) of the person(s) you are alleging has committed the discriminatory act
- ❖ A concise statement of the facts, including dates, times, and a description of the alleged discriminatory act(s).

If this is an employment complaint, include the full name, phone number, email address, and address of the employer and the approximate number of people employed at the business. If it is a public accommodation complaint – which means denial or unfair treatment by a business, agency or service provider – you will need to provide the address, phone number, email address, and legal name of the business or agency. For a housing complaint, include the name, phone number, email address, and address of the landlord and a copy of the lease.

Return the complaint form to the Abington Township Office, clearly marked to the attention of the Human Relations Commission. All complaints **must be received within one hundred eighty (180) days of the last act giving rise to the complaint or you will lose any right to pursue your claim.**

A member of the Human Relations Commission will contact you to arrange a time to meet at the Township Building and further discuss the matter. The person who receives your complaint will be nonjudgmental. **All the information you provide will remain confidential.** He or she will determine if more information is needed and inform you of the procedure once a formal complaint has been filed.

If both parties consent, the Abington Township Human Relations Commission will conduct mediation between the parties involved.

The members of the Human Relations Commission will strive to resolve all issues fairly and amicably, with the sincere hope that the work of this Commission will help township residents live together in mutual respect and dignity.

Members of the Abington Township Human Relations Commission:

Joanne E. Kleiner, Esquire
Kristin Chapin
Justin Williams

Michele Cooper
Monique Allen

Shelley Kapnek Rosenberg, Ed.D.
Rosemary Jenkins