

TENANT SCREENING: DISCRIMINATION IN DISGUISE

Automated background checks may seem efficient but can have discriminatory effects on people with criminal records that limit their access to housing opportunities. The software used in these checks is often powered by tenant screening companies, and can amplify systemic biases which disproportionately effect people of color.



Conduct an Individualized Assessment



The Department of Housing and Urban Development recommends that someone deciding whether to rent to someone complete an 'individualized assessment' of the potential tenant's criminal past. This assessment requires a thorough examination of:

1. When was the offense?
2. What is the nature and severity of the offense?
3. What has happened since the offense occurred?

In Connecticut, fair housing laws protect everyone, regardless of their past. It is illegal to deny housing based solely on a criminal record without considering rehabilitation and individual circumstances.

Here are some tips to assist you in your housing search:

- Inquire about the specific details of the background check and the criteria used
- Familiarize yourself with Connecticut's fair housing laws
- If you believe you've faced discrimination, consult with the Connecticut Fair Housing Center for guidance

Automated background checks should not be barriers to housing. Join us in advocating for fair housing practices and creating communities where everyone has an equal opportunity to call a place home.

The Connecticut Fair Housing Center is a nonprofit organization working to ensure that all people have equal access to housing opportunities, free from discrimination.

If you have experienced housing discrimination, file a report! Contact the Connecticut Fair Housing Center!



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