



Erin Kemple, Esq

This month the Elkhart Human Relations Commission will be partnering with Heart City Health and Salvation Army to host a Fair Housing workshop for non-profits and service providers.

Our guest speaker will be attorney Erin Kemple of Kemple Fair Housing Consulting Services.

Kemple is a fair housing expert working with fair housing agencies around the country. She is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross and Suffolk University Law School.

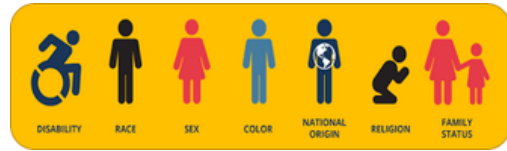
She is currently working with the National Fair Housing Alliance to establish a new fair housing council in Memphis, Tennessee.

EVENT NEWS

April 2, 2024

MyElkhart311 and the Elkhart Human Relations Commission will be at **Coco's Restaurant** on **April 2, 2024 from 11: am- 1pm** for a Community Pop-up. Join us to learn about City services and resources.

April 18, 2024



Join us for our upcoming **Fair Housing Workshop for Service Providers** and learn how you can help make a difference in our community. Let's work together to fight housing discrimination and provide support to those in need. Here are the details:

- Date: **April 18, 2024**
- Time: **5 pm**
- Location: Salvation Army -300 N. Main Street- Elkhart.
- RSVP to Mayra Garcia TEXT: 574-514-0611 or EMAIL: mayragarcia@heartcityhealth.org



Fair Housing Issues



Basic Needs

Housing discrimination is denial of the most basic of needs for a human being. Where we live affects the type of education we receive, job opportunities, resources, healthcare, and even life expectancy.

Without safe, secure, equitable housing, everything else falls apart.



Helping Landlords

We want to help landlords understand their rights and responsibilities under the fair housing law.

The Elkhart Human Relations Commission offers fair housing seminars throughout the year and is a resource, not only for tenants, but for landlords as well.



Children

Under the Fair Housing Act, housing providers may not discriminate because a family has children.

Familial status covers:

- families with children under the age of 18,
- pregnant persons, and
- any person in the process of securing legal custody of a minor child (including adoptive or foster parents).
- persons with written permission of the parent or legal guardian



Accessible Housing

The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing and housing-related transactions because of physical or mental disability.

What Can I Do If I Experience Housing Discrimination ?

If you or someone you know has experienced housing discrimination, please contact the Elkhart Human Relations Commission Staff by phone, email, or in person.

In the meanwhile, here are a few tenant tips:

- Keep a copy of your lease
- Keep copies of your receipts
- Keep copies of all correspondences
- Follow the rules of your lease including paying your rent
- Report any changes in your household or housing immediately



Unsure what Unfair Housing looks like.....

Some examples:

- Refusing to rent to you due to your protected class
- Discrimination in housing rules for some and not others
- Advertising a rental in a way that excludes or shows a preference to a certain type of tenant



The Commission congratulates Dana Donald, Fair Housing Coordinator for the City of Elkhart, on another successful year of fighting housing discrimination in Elkhart. She single-handedly takes complaints of unfair housing discrimination, investigates them and prepares and presents the cases to the Commission for hearing, all while educating residents and housing providers of the Fair Housing regulations and guidelines through workshops and other promotional programs including neighborhood door-to-door walks and delivering children's books to Elkhart schools and libraries. Dana truly is Elkhart's Hometown Fair Housing Hero. Thank you, Dana!

From the desk of
the President:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Jo Weyrick".

President, Elkhart Human Relations Commission

Thank you for reading!

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