

Housing Discrimination is REAL Take Time to Educate Yourself and Your Client

A <u>three year investigation</u> in Long Island, New York revealed evidence of widespread unequal treatment of individuals seeking housing. It is likely that there will be renewed efforts to enforce fair housing laws everywhere. Are you sure you are compliant? Are you giving Fair Housing the attention it deserves?

Fair housing is more than just knowing the law and the 'protected classes'. Fair housing requires proactive attention and focused efforts to combat years of inequality, both blatant and disguised.

Increase your own and your client's awareness of issues in Fair Housing by seeking out education. Here are some tools from SWRA and PAR to assist. Taking the time early in the relationship to explain the obligation of both agent and client will go a long way toward a successful and compliant relationship and transaction.

Suburban West offers two <u>customizable flyers</u> to start the conversation. Additionally, the PAR Agency contracts: Buyer (Tenant) Agency Contract (BAC); Listing (Seller Agency) Contract XLS; and the Listing Contract for Rent (XLR) all provide an opportunity to engage prospective clients in the fair housing discussion. A related and valuable resource is the <u>Pennsylvania Housing Equality Center</u> located in Fort Washington PA.