

# **NJ Resource Guide for Women**

**Section IV:**

**CIVIL RIGHTS**

**NJ Department of Community Affairs  
Division on Women  
Spring 2009**

## CIVIL RIGHTS

### Your Civil Rights:

#### New Jersey Department of Law & Public Safety Division on Civil Rights

140 East Front Street  
P. O. Box 090  
Trenton, NJ 08625

**Phone: (609) 292-4605**

TTY: (609) 292-1782

Fax: (609) 984-3812

**Web:** <http://www.nj.gov/oag/dcr/index.html>

- ◆ The Division is responsible for eliminating illegal discrimination in employment, public accommodations, and housing by enforcing the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination and the NJ Family Leave Act.

### Filing A Complaint:

- ◆ You can file a complaint if you feel that you have been wrongfully discriminated against because of your race, religion, color, HIV/AIDS, national origin, disability, age, nationality, ancestry, marital status, familial status, affectional or sexual orientation, sex, lawful source of income, or Armed Forces status. Complaints must be filed with the Division on Civil Rights within 180 days after the alleged act of discrimination. A complaint can be filed at any of the regional offices. Local offices are listed below.

Regional Offices		
<b>Atlantic City Regional Office</b> 26 Pennsylvania Avenue 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Atlantic City, NJ 08401 <b>Phone: (609) 441-3100</b> TTY: (609) 441-7648 Fax: (609) 441-3578	<b>Camden Regional office</b> One Port Center, 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor 2 Riverside Drive Camden, NJ 08103 <b>Phone: (856) 614-2550</b> TTY: (856) 614-2574 Fax: (856) 614-2568	<b>Newark Regional Office</b> 31 Clinton Street Newark, NJ 07102 <b>Phone: (973) 648-2700</b> TTY: (973) 648-4678 Fax: (973) 648-4405
<b>Paterson Regional Office</b> 100 Hamilton Plaza 8 <sup>th</sup> Floor Paterson, NJ 07501 <b>Phone: (973) 977-4500</b> TTY: (973) 977-1955 Fax: (973) 977-4511	<b>Jersey City Neighborhood Office</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Hudson County Housing Resource Center 574 Newark Avenue Jersey City, NJ 07306 <b>Phone: (201) 798-5168</b> <i>Wednesdays only 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</i>	<b>Trenton Regional Office</b> 140 E. Front Street, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor Trenton, NJ 08625 <b>Phone: (609) 292-4605</b> TTY: (609) 292-1785 Fax: (609) 984-3812

## CIVIL RIGHTS

**It is important that the initial information given to the Division be as complete and accurate as possible. When a complaint is filed, it is helpful to bring the following information:**

- Names and addresses of the person or persons alleged to have discriminated against you and names of possible witnesses
- Documentation to support the damages being sought, such as wage statements, proof of medical expenses

### **NJ Division on Civil Rights—Fact Sheets:**

**Fact Sheets are Available from the NJ Division on Civil Rights Regarding:**

- Civil Rights for Employment
- Housing Discrimination
- Marital Status & Discrimination
- Pregnant Women & Discrimination
- Racial Discrimination
- Religious Discrimination
- Sex Discrimination
- Sexual Harassment

### **Law Against Discrimination (LAD)**

**Web:** <http://www.state.nj.us/lps/dcr/law.html>

- ◆ The New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (LAD) makes it unlawful to subject people to differential treatment based on race, creed, color, national origin, nationality, ancestry, age, sex (including pregnancy), familial status, pregnancy, marital status, domestic partnership status, affectional or sexual orientation, atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait, genetic information, liability for military service, and mental or physical disability, perceived disability, and AIDS and HIV status. The LAD prohibits unlawful discrimination in employment, housing, places of public accommodation, credit and business contracts. Not all of the foregoing prohibited bases for discrimination are protected in all of these areas of activity.

### **\*Department of the Public Advocate**

240 West State Street

PO BOX 851

Trenton, NJ 08625-0851

**Phone: (609) 826-5090**

**Web:** <http://www.nj.gov/publicadvocate>

### **\* Spanish Speakers Available**

- ◆ The Department of the Public Advocate is a principal executive department of the state dedicated to making government more accountable and more responsive to the needs of average New Jerseyans. The Public Advocate advocates on behalf of New Jersey citizens, including children, the indigent, senior citizens, people with disabilities, mental illness and consumers utilizing a range of advocacy tools including systemic and class action lawsuits.

## **CIVIL RIGHTS**

The following divisions offer direct representation of clients:

- Division of Mental Health Advocacy includes the Division of Mental Health and Guardianship, represents people facing voluntary or involuntary commitment to state psychiatric facilities. It also provides guardianship representation for clients of the Division of Developmental Disabilities and, most recently, has been called upon to provide attorneys for sex offenders facing civil commitment hearings at the end of their prison sentences.
- Division of Citizen Relations includes the Office of Dispute Settlement which offers mediation services to keep civil suits from going to trial. They currently manages dispute resolution programs pursuant to: 1) the New Home Warranty Program; 2) Open Public Records Act; 3) Underground Facility Protection Act; and 4) NJ Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act (condominium disputes-legislation pending).

### **Women's Referral Central Toll Free: 1 (800) 322-8092**

24 hours a day/7 days a week

- ◆ Provides referrals and basic information about discrimination, legal services, displaced homemakers, divorce, housing, health care, domestic violence, sexual assault, child care and other issues facing women. Translators are available to provide information in any language.