

(1) Any information may be released at any time if the release has been agreed to in writing by both complainant and respondent; and

(2) The identity of the complainant may be disclosed to the respondent at any time.

Discrimination in Housing

19.

(a) It is the policy of the State of Maryland to provide for fair housing throughout the State of Maryland, to all its citizens, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, FAMILIAL STATUS, national origin, marital status, or [physical or mental] handicap; and to that end to prohibit discriminatory practices with respect to residential housing by any person or group of persons, in order that the peace, health, safety, prosperity and general welfare of all the inhabitants of the State may be protected and insured.

(B) This law shall be deemed an exercise of the police power of the State of Maryland for the protection of the people of the State, and shall be administered and enforced by the State of Maryland Commission on Human Relations AND, AS PROVIDED IN THIS SUBTITLE, BE ENFORCED BY THE APPROPRIATE STATE COURT.

20.

[(b) For purposes of this subtitle:]

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) "AGGRIEVED PERSON" MEANS ANY PERSON WHO:

(1) CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN INJURED BY A DISCRIMINATORY HOUSING PRACTICE; OR

(2) ~~BELIEVES THAT THE PERSON WILL BE INJURED BY A DISCRIMINATORY HOUSING PRACTICE THAT IS ABOUT TO OCCUR.~~

(C) "COMPLAINANT" MEANS THE PERSON WHO FILES A COMPLAINT OF A DISCRIMINATORY HOUSING PRACTICE UNDER THIS ARTICLE.

(D) "CONCILIATION" MEANS THE ATTEMPTED RESOLUTION OF ISSUES RAISED BY A COMPLAINT, OR BY THE INVESTIGATION OF A COMPLAINT THROUGH INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS INVOLVING THE AGGRIEVED PERSON, THE RESPONDENT, AND THE COMMISSION.

(E) "CONCILIATION AGREEMENT" MEANS A WRITTEN AGREEMENT SETTING FORTH THE RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUES IN CONCILIATION.

(F) "COVERED MULTIFAMILY DWELLING" MEANS:

(1) A BUILDING CONSISTING OF 4 OR MORE UNITS, IF THE BUILDING HAS 1 OR MORE ELEVATORS; OR