

CITY OF NEW HAVEN



COMMISSION ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

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NOTICE STATEMENT OF COMPLAINANT'S RIGHTS

1. Complainant/Grievant may have legal representation at all stages of the administrative process.
2. Complainant/Grievant may pursue their case in court.
3. Complainant/Grievant does not have to accept the Commission's determination.
4. Complainant/Grievant may withdraw the complaint and pursue their case in court or proceed in court concurrently with the administrative process.
5. Complainant/Grievant may sue in civil court for compensatory and punitive damages.
6. Court will award attorney fees to the prevailing Complainant/Grievant plaintiff.
7. Complainant/Grievant may bring a class action.
The Justice Department may bring an independent action against the Respondent under Section 813 of Title VIII.

Please Note:

Awards have commonly been made as a result of litigation in federal courts in housing cases brought under Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act (42-U.S.C. Ss3601 et seq.) and the Civil Rights Act of 1866 (42 U.S.C. Ss 1982). In particular, Title VIII authorizes the award of "actual damages" which has been construed to include compensatory damages for embarrassment and humiliation in federal court cases.

Neither state nor federal law requires that you be represented by an attorney. This Commission represents the public interest and does not serve as legal advisor to private individuals. The decision to retain private counsel is entirely yours.