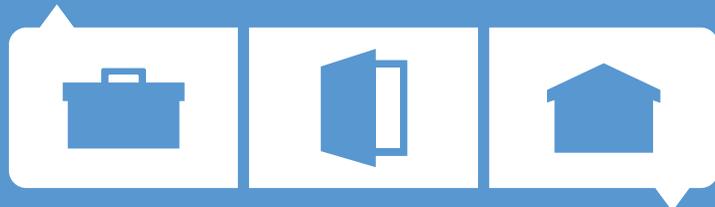


About the Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations

Anyone who lives, works, or visits Pittsburgh has a legal right to opportunity and access to housing, employment, and public accommodations. The Commission on Human Relations (PghCHR) investigates instances of discrimination and seeks resolutions for anyone who has experienced harm because of discrimination. We are more than just an agency that enforces laws. We work with communities, and public and private organizations, to proactively educate people about equal rights and opportunities.

The PghCHR has the power to enforce punitive legal action, but our Commissioners recognize that constructive resolutions, such as mandating trainings and policy changes, are more likely to lead to changes in behavior and changes in practice. We are dedicated to creating positive change and promoting equality, which stands out in our efforts to proactively work with communities, businesses, and organizations to prevent and recognize discrimination.



Serving Fairness Together

An Example of a Complaint:

A real estate agent takes a young couple to see a few homes. The couple remarks that they thought they were going to see a home they saw online. The agent replies that they probably, "wouldn't feel comfortable in that neighborhood," and implies it is because it is mostly occupied by people of another race.



📍 908 City-County Building
414 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

☎ (412) 255-2600 📠 (412) 255-2288

💻 www.pittsburghpa.gov/chr

✉ human.relations@pittsburghpa.gov

📱 @PghCHR

English



How Can the Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations Help You?



**Pittsburgh Commission
On Human Relations**

Serving Fairness Together

What is the PghCHR?



The Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations (PghCHR) is charged under Article V Discrimination of the Pittsburgh City Code to investigate, adjudicate and remedy discrimination.

- **Discrimination** means an illegal difference in treatment because of your membership in a protected class.
- In the area of **employment discrimination**, this includes age (for persons over 40 years), ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, place of birth, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation.
- In the area of **housing discrimination**, age discrimination is not protected, but familial status and status as a survivor of domestic violence are protected.
- The PghCHR also protects persons from **public accommodation discrimination**, religious symbol desecration, and unlawful discriminatory practices in the delivery of City services and by City employees, including the Police.

What do the staff do in the complaint process?

- Staff are charged with completing intakes, receiving and documenting complaints, and investigating cases filed.
- Investigation includes gathering evidence, testimony, statistics and other information pertinent to the allegation and ultimately providing a recommendation for review by Commissioners.

What is the role of Commissioners in the complaint process?

- Commissioners are volunteers appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council. They serve four-year staggered terms.
- Commissioners serve a vital role in reviewing, approving or disapproving determinations made by staff, and preside over public hearings of cases and concerns before the PghCHR. Commissioners also rule on motions.
- Commissioners may serve as mediators.
- Commissioners serve on committees and provide guidance for the direction of studying and receiving public input on Civil Rights issues.

Find out more at:

www.pittsburghpa.gov/chr/commissioners

Who May File a Complaint?

Any person, group(s) of persons or organization(s) claiming to be aggrieved by an alleged unlawful discriminatory practice may file. The PghCHR, on its own motion, may initiate a complaint.

What can PghCHR do?

- The PghCHR can mediate between two parties in conflict and provide a forum to find solutions.
- The PghCHR has the power to subpoena necessary information of the charges filed before it.
- The PghCHR seeks to remedy complaints by finding resolution between the parties. Where probable cause of discrimination is found, The PghCHR seeks to remedy the harm, which may include training, changes in policies, an accommodation, back pay, or other solutions that aim to make the person who filed whole, and alleviate the discrimination alleged.

Retaliation is Against the Law

If you are subjected to a difference in treatment because you filed a complaint of discrimination, that is illegal conduct and should be reported to PghCHR.

Contact Us

📍 908 City-County Building
414 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

☎ (412) 255-2600 📠 (412) 255-2288

💻 www.pittsburghpa.gov/chr

✉ human.relations@pittsburghpa.gov

📱 @PghCHR