



The Cook County Just Housing Amendment (“JHA”; Cook County Code Sec. 42-38) **protects** housing seekers with records from discrimination. Housing providers must now follow certain requirements in the application and screening process. **There are no blanket denials based on past convictions.**

HOUSING PROVIDERS CANNOT:

- Ask about any criminal history on the rental application form
- Change the price or terms of a lease based on your record
- Refuse to show a listing to you or pretend it’s not available based on your record
- Run a background check before informing you
- Consider former arrests, charges, or citations, participation in a diversion or deferral of judgment program; sealed, expunged, or pardoned records; or juvenile records
- Deny housing based on convictions more than 3 years old*

HOUSING PROVIDERS MUST:

- Only consider convictions within the last 3 years*
- Give you a copy of the background check they used
- Give you 5 business days to dispute the accuracy of the background check, offer evidence of rehabilitation, or submit other mitigating information
- Perform an individualized assessment before deciding whether or not to deny your housing application
- Give written reasons for why the recent conviction poses a genuine safety issue if they deny you
- Provide information about how to challenge this decision

***Exceptions:** sex offense registrations, child sex offense residency restrictions; and any other exceptions required under federal law

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REPORT A JHA VIOLATION, CONTACT:

Cook County Human Rights

Commission:

(312)-603-1100

69 W. Washington St, Ste 3040,

Chicago, IL 60602

www.cookcountyil.gov/content/just-housing-amendment-human-rights-ordinance

Uptown People’s Law Center

(773) 769-1411

4413 N. Sheridan Rd, Chicago, IL

60640

uplc@uplcchicago.org