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