

Commission on Human Rights

Fair Housing education events tomorrow in Richmond

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Contact Information: Victoria Stephens
502.641.0760
Commission Headquarters
1.800.292.5566

Richmond, Ky. (April 9, 2013) The Richmond Human Rights Commission and the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights are presenting two fair housing educational sessions in Richmond, Ky., tomorrow, April 10. April is Fair Housing Month, nationally and in Kentucky.

The first is a fair housing training from 1 to 3p.m. (EDT) at the Madison County Public Library, 507 West Main Street. It will provide information about Kentucky fair housing law, reasonable accommodations and modifications for qualified individuals with disabilities, equal access to U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity, and the discrimination complaint process of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights.

The second session is a fair housing forum, which will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. (EDT). The forum will provide an opportunity for Richmond residents to assess fair housing needs in their communities and discuss ways to further fair housing in Richmond and Madison County. Reportedly, of particular interest to several residents in the area is the need for increased accessible units for people with disabilities.

Both sessions are open to the public. The training at 1 p.m. has already reached seating capacity, but seating is still available for the fair housing forum at 6 p.m., and registration is encouraged. For more information, contact Juan Pena at 502.229.1487.

The fair housing sessions are part of a statewide campaign during April Fair Housing Month to educate the public about federal and Kentucky fair housing laws. Recent statistics have shown that discriminatory practices based on disability are on the rise. Reports show that about 4 million fair housing violations occur each year, nationally. Only one percent of these violations are reported.

The Richmond and Kentucky Human Rights commissions appreciate the support of the Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) Department of Anthropology, Sociology and Social Work and EKU Women and Gender Studies in tomorrow's sessions.

The Kentucky Human Rights Commission is the state government authority that enforces the Kentucky Civil Rights Act and federal civil rights laws. The Kentucky Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination in public accommodations, employment, housing, and financial transactions on the bases of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, and sex.

Discrimination is further prohibited on the basis of familial status in housing, which protects families with children in the household under age 18-years, and it protects women who are pregnant. The bases of age (40 or over) and tobacco-smoking status are protected in employment.