

Who is protected?

The District of Columbia Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination based on the following 19 “Protected Classes”. Please note that these definitions are not exhaustive. To learn more about your full protections and access the full DC Human Rights Act of 1977, click [here](#).

1. **Race:** classification or association based on a person’s ancestry or ethnicity
2. **Color:** skin pigmentation or complexion
3. **Religion;** a belief system which may or may not include spirituality
4. **National origin:** the country or area where one’s ancestor’s are from
5. **Sex:** a person’s gender; includes sexual harassment and a woman’s right to breastfeed
6. **Age:** 18 years or older
7. **Marital status:** married (same sex or opposite sex), single, in a domestic partnership, divorced, separated, and widowed.
8. **Personal appearance:** outward appearance, but is subject to business requirements or standards
9. **Sexual orientation:** homosexuality, heterosexuality, and bisexuality
10. **Gender identity or expression:** your gender-related identity, behavior, appearance, expression or behavior which is different from what you are assigned at birth.
11. **Familial Status:** a parent or guardian with 2 or more children under 18
12. **Family responsibilities:** supporting a person in a dependent relationship, which includes, but is not limited to, your children, grandchildren and parents.
13. **Matriculation:** being enrolled in a college, university or some type of secondary school.
14. **Political affiliation:** belonging to or supporting a political party
15. **Genetic information:** Your DNA or family history which may provide information as to a person’s predisposition or likely to come down with a disease or illness.
16. **Disability-**a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.
17. **Source of Income:** the origination of a person’s finances
18. **Status as a Victim of an Intrafamily Offense:** a person who was subjected to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking
19. **Place of Residence or Business:** geographical location of home or work

Under the District of Columbia Human Rights Act, individuals are protected from discrimination within four areas:

- Employment
- Housing
- Educational Institutions
- Public Accommodations