



# 5 Things You Should Know About The New Jersey Law Against Discrimination

- 1 The New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (LAD) prohibits discrimination** and harassment based on actual or perceived race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, and other protected characteristics. The law applies in employment, housing, and places of public accommodation (generally, places open to the public, including businesses, restaurants, schools, summer camps, medical providers, etc.).
- 2 The anti-discrimination provisions mean that** an employer cannot fire someone, pay someone less money, or refuse to hire or promote someone because of their race. Similarly, a housing provider cannot refuse to rent an apartment to a couple because of their sexual orientation. And a place of public accommodation cannot refuse service to someone because of their religion.
- 3 The LAD also prohibits bias-based harassment.** That means if someone is being subjected to bias-based harassment that creates a hostile environment, an employer, housing provider, or place of public accommodation must take reasonable steps to stop the harassment if they knew or should have known about it. That includes harassment between coworkers, tenants, or patrons, not just harassment by a landlord or by a supervisor at work. The LAD also prohibits “quid pro quo” sexual harassment—where a person in a position of power demands sex or sexual favors in exchange for favorable treatment, such as continued employment or a promotion.
- 4 The LAD prohibits retaliation** against a person for complaining about discrimination or bias-based harassment, or otherwise exercising or attempting to exercise their rights under the law. For example, an employer cannot fire someone for reporting sexual harassment to human resources. And a housing provider cannot evict someone for reporting housing discrimination to DCR.
- 5 The New Jersey Division on Civil Rights (DCR) enforces the LAD** and is tasked with preventing and eliminating discrimination and bias-based harassment in New Jersey. Anyone who believes their rights under the LAD have been violated may file a complaint with DCR within 180 days of the incident.

To find out more or to file a complaint, go to [NJCivilRights.gov](https://www.njcivilrights.gov) or call **1.833.NJDCR4U**



NJ Office of the Attorney General  
[NJCivilRights.gov](https://www.njcivilrights.gov)

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