

Housing and Criminal Records

Have you been denied housing or had to pay higher rent and/or a higher deposit because of your criminal history?

- It is a violation of the federal Fair Housing Act to deny housing based on an arrest or conviction alone.
- Public and private housing providers must consider your specific criminal record – the type of offense, the circumstances surrounding it, how long ago it was, and whether it directly relates to resident safety and/or property.

If the above factors were not considered when you were denied housing OR you were asked to pay a higher deposit or rent because of your criminal history, call Georgia Justice Project (GJP) as soon as possible. GJP helps people who are trying to find housing but having trouble because of their Georgia criminal history.

Contact Dominique Madison at 404-827-0027, ext. 225.

What can you do to “clean up” your Georgia criminal history to help it stop getting in the way of getting housing?

- Arrests not resulting in a conviction can generally come off of your record.
- If you have a conviction, you might be eligible for retroactive first offender if you were never convicted of a felony before and successfully completed the terms of your sentence.
- If you have a felony conviction, you might be eligible for a pardon, which is an official order of forgiveness from the state that provides liability protection to landlords.

GJP helps people who can't afford an attorney with record restriction (expungement), sealing, first offender issues, retroactive first offender, corrections, pardons, and other matters related to their criminal history.

Contact Georgia Justice Project at 404-827-0027, ext. 238, to learn more about our criminal records assistance.