CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINTS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LEGAL DIVISION
SFN 143 (4-2026)

Click Here to Clear Field Data

Individual or Organization Against Whom the Complaint is Made

Basis of the Discrimination: Select all that Apply

- ☐ Race
- ☐ Age
- ☐ Color
- ☐ National Origin
- ☐ Disability
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Sex
- ☐ Political Beliefs+
- ☐ Status with Respect to Marriage or Public Assistance

Reason for complaint - Describe in detail when, where, and how the alleged discrimination occurred.

Signature		Date	
Name		Telephone Number	
Address	City	State	ZIP Code

Mail to: Legal Division
Department of Health and Human Services
600 E Boulevard Ave Dept 325
Bismarck, ND 58505-0250

Phone: (701) 328-2311
Phone: (701) 328-2311
TTY: 711
Fax: (701) 328-2173

Submit by Email

Department of Health and Human Services
Your Civil Rights

What is the policy of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)?
Discrimination means treating someone differently because of a particular characteristic such as race, color, sex, age, disability, or religion. HHS makes available all services and assistance without regard to race, color, sex, age, disability, national origin, religion, status with respect to marriage or public assistance. For programs funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), HHS also makes services and assistance available without regard to political beliefs. These laws must be followed by all individuals who contract with or receive funds to provide services for HHS, including the states regional Human Service Centers, the State Hospital, the Life Skills and Transition Center, and the Human Service Zone offices.

The policies of HHS require that:
- You be given the chance to apply for assistance or services, or both.
- The same eligibility standards apply to you as apply to others in similar situations.

In accordance with Federal law, and North Dakota state law, HHS is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, sex, age, disability, national origin, religion, or status with respect to marriage or public assistance. In accordance with the USDA, HHS is also prohibited from discriminating against political beliefs or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by the USDA.

What do I do if someone has discriminated against me?
You may file a written complaint if you believe you have been discriminated against because of race, color, sex, age, disability, national origin, religion, or status with respect to marriage or public assistance, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Age Discrimination Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the North Dakota Human Rights Act, or if you believe you have been discriminated against because of your political beliefs, in violation of USDA policy.

A Civil Rights Complaint Form (SFN 143) is also available in a PDF fillable format at:
https://www.nd.gov/eforms/Doc/sfn00143.pdf

The Civil Rights Attorney and Civil Rights Officer work together to prevent and eliminate discrimination against individuals in the delivery of programs and services administered and supervised by HHS and to make all programs and activities accessible to people with disabilities.

Where do I file a complaint?
Persons who need accommodations or have questions related to discrimination and the delivery of human services may contact any of the following offices. Written complaints may be filed with your local Human Service Zone or any of the following:

Legal Division Department of Health and Human Services 600 E. Boulevard Ave, Dept 325 Bismarck, ND 58505-0250 Phone: (701) 328-2311 or 1 (800) 472-2622 TTY: 711 FAX: (701) 328-2173 Email: dhslau@nd.gov	*Centralized Case Management Operations U.S. Department of Health & Human Services 200 Independence Avenue SW Room 509F HHH Bldg Washington, DC 20201 Phone: 1 (800) 368-1019 TTY: 1 (800) 537-7697 FAX: (202) 619-3437 Email: ocrcomplaint@hhs.gov
*+ USDA Food and Nutrition Service 1320 Braddock Place, Room 334 Alexandria, VA 22314 Email: FNSCIVILRIGHTSCOMPLAINTS@usda.gov	* + U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, STOP 9410 Washington, DC 20250-9410 Phone: 1 (866) 632-9992 TTY: 1 (800) 877-8339 FAX: (202) 690-7442 Email: program.intake@usda.gov

*State and local agencies are required to comply with the North Dakota Human Rights Laws that prohibit discrimination based on “status with respect to marriage or public assistance.” Federal agencies are not required to investigate complaints based on the North Dakota Human Rights Laws.

+ Under USDA policy, discrimination is also prohibited on the basis of political beliefs.

When should I file a complaint?
The complaint must be filed within 180 days of the incident. Include in your complaint the nature of the discrimination, where and when it took place, who discriminated against you, and all other important facts. Remember to date the form and sign your name.

What happens when I file a complaint with the HHS Office of Civil Rights?
The HHS Office of Civil Rights will determine if the nature of the complaint is within its jurisdiction. If the complaint is within the jurisdiction of the agency, an investigation will be conducted, and you will know the outcome of the complaint within 60 business days of when it was filed. If the complaint is not within the jurisdiction of the agency, you will receive a letter. If you file your complaint with another agency, they will notify you according to their policies.