Equal Employment Opportunity is the LAW

What Does Equal Employment Opportunity Mean?

It guarantees the right of all persons to apply and be considered for job opportunities on the basis of the person's ability to do the job. While employed, you should not be treated unfairly because of any of the protected characteristics.

What Does the Law Cover?

Chapter 216 of the *Code of Iowa*, as amended, (The Iowa Civil Rights Act), prohibits discrimination in employment because of a person's:

Race	**Age (18 and older)**
Creed	**National Origin**
Color	**Gender Identity**
Sex	**Sexual Orientation**
Pregnancy	**Disability**
Religion	

To Whom Does the Law Apply?

- Persons who apply for employment with, or employees of, private employers, state and local governments, and public and private educational institutions with four or more employees.
- Employment agencies, labor unions, contractors, and sub-contractors, and apprenticeship programs.

What Other Resources Are Available to Help with a Discrimination Problem?

You may also contact the local human rights, civil rights or human relations agency in your area, or the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), a federal agency. The EEOC District Office is located at:

310 West Wisconsin Ave., Suite 800
Milwaukee, WI 53203-2292
414-297-1111

EEOC enforces Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA), which protects persons age 40 or older; and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

What Action Will an Agency Take?

The Commission's staff can answer questions about your rights under the Act and help you take the necessary steps to file a complaint if you decide to pursue a claim. Once a complaint is filed, the Commission will take all appropriate actions to process the complaint. There is no charge to file a complaint and you do not need an attorney to file a complaint with the Commission.

What Should I Do If I Believe I've Been Discriminated Against?

You should immediately contact:

Iowa Civil Rights Commission
400 E. 14th Street, Grimes Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
515-281-4121, 1-800-457-4416
515-242-5840 (FAX)
http://www.state.ia.us/government/crc

You may contact the Commission by telephone or mail for information, or assistance in filing a complaint. The Commission's office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. You may leave a message at 515-281-4121 after hours for a return call. **Your complaint must be filed within 300 days of the discriminatory act.**

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." – Martin Luther King, Jr.