

Things to Know

You Have Rights

The Fair Housing Act prohibits landlords from discriminating based on race, color, religion, sex, familial status, disability, and —of special relevance to this topic— national origin. Such discrimination is illegal and can be reported to your regional Housing and Urban Development office.

Landlords are not prohibited from asking about your residency status. They do have to pose the question to everyone so it's done fairly and not based on whims or potentially illegal suspicions.

Be Careful

Unfortunately, criminals are always looking to steal money from prospective renters, and undocumented persons can be easy targets. Beware of offers that sound too good to be true, and people who ask for money upfront before signing a lease. When in doubt, send an email to Off-Campus Life with the offer to see if it's legit.

For Questions, Help, or Support, please contact:

Off-Campus Life

ocl@colostate.edu

(970) 491-2248

Student Legal Services

sls_intake@mail.colostate.edu

(970) 491-1482

Student Resolution Center

srcenter@colostate.edu

(970) 491-7165



OFF-CAMPUS LIFE

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



Off-Campus Housing as an Undocumented Student

What to know and what to ask when leasing.

Homework

Unfortunately, as an undocumented renter, you're going to have some homework before signing a lease. There are a couple of documents you'll want to have ready before you start touring. Be aware some of these make take some time to get, so start collecting these early!

- Identification (a passport or state-issued identification)
- Proof that you are able to pay the rent such as a pay stub, official job offer, or proof of financial assistance such as loans/grants
- Financial information (ie. two months of bank statements)
- A Form 1040NR—also known as the U.S. Nonresident Alien Income Tax Return form—can also facilitate the process in some cases
- Optional, but helpful references from previous landlords
- You'll also need to provide a Social Security number. Don't have one? Don't worry. You should be able to rent an apartment without a Social Security number provided you have a student visa or Permanent Resident Card (a.k.a. Green Card).

I think I'm being discriminated against, what do I do?

Identifying Discrimination

The Fair Housing Act prohibits housing and housing-related discrimination because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), familial status, and disability.

Reporting Discrimination

If you feel you have or are being discriminated against, please contact Student Legal Services and/or Off-Campus Life for support.

Read more about HUD Fair Housing laws.



Searching for Undocumented Friendly Housing

Use your CSU Resources

CSU has many resources for assistance in finding off-campus housing and supporting undocumented students. We recommend setting up a meeting with Off-Campus Life and Student Legal Services.

RentalSearch is also a great resource for looking at available properties online. You can look at either properties as a whole, or individual roommate profiles on Rooms for Rent.

