



If you have tested positive for HIV, or if you have AIDS, you have legal rights to protect you from discrimination.

The ACLU AIDS Project is here to protect the rights of people with HIV/AIDS.

HIV discrimination happens every day. There are laws that ban bias, protect families, and preserve privacy — but they are often misunderstood or ignored by schools and hospitals, by police and in prisons, at work, and in many other places.

Fighting HIV is hard enough. You shouldn't have to fight discrimination too. Here are some situations in which illegal HIV discrimination

often happens. If you are having similar problems because you have AIDS or are HIV positive, we may be able to help.

**HIV & Your
Civil Rights**

Access to Medical Care

Throughout the country, people are breaking the law by denying patients critical medical and dental treatment because of HIV/AIDS.

Discrimination in Residential Facilities

Nursing homes, drug treatment programs, homeless shelters, psychiatric facilities — all over the country, they are breaking the law by refusing to admit people with HIV/AIDS.

Privacy Violations

Too often, a person's HIV status is illegally revealed by pharmacists, police officers, doctors, school officials, or other authority figures. Most states already protect medical privacy, and a new federal law provides more protection.

Parental Rights

Denying parents with HIV custody or visitation with their children, or excluding them from becoming foster parents or adopting, is illegal. This sort of discrimination tears apart the families of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Discrimination in Food Service and Health Care Jobs

Many employers, including food, retail and drug chains, are asking unlawful questions about disabilities and health on job applications. Many food service and health care employers are still ignorant about how HIV is transmitted.

If anything like this has happened to you, call us.



Contact Us

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About the ACLU and the AIDS Project

Founded in 1986, the ACLU AIDS Project is a special division of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). The Project is staffed by experts in constitutional law and civil rights, who specialize in the rights of people with HIV/AIDS.

The ACLU AIDS Project brings "impact" lawsuits in state and federal courts throughout the country. This means that the cases we take on are designed to have a significant effect on the lives of people living with HIV and AIDS.

America's foremost advocate of individual rights, the ACLU is a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization founded in 1920. With national headquarters in New York and Washington and 52 affiliates throughout the country, it is widely regarded as the nation's premier public interest law firm. The ACLU believes that the only way to protect freedom is to stand fast for the idea that everyone has the same rights — no matter who they are.

Our Legal Services

At the ACLU AIDS Project, our goal is to take on cases that will have a broad impact on the rights of people with HIV/AIDS throughout the country. Unfortunately, this means we cannot directly represent most people who contact us for legal help. But we still want to hear from you. If we cannot help you ourselves, we may be able to help you find free or low-cost legal aid or other resources.

"My ex-wife says I can't have my children visit overnight because I have HIV."

"My teacher wants to tell everyone in my school that I have AIDS."

"I used to be a cook in a restaurant — now my boss will only let me do dishes since he found out."

"The judge ordered me to go to drug treatment, but they say they won't take people with HIV."

"I'm afraid to fill my prescription at the pharmacy in my town because the pharmacist shoves out the name of the drug when you pick it up."

"This job application tells me to list all the medications I'm taking. Can they do that?"