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.

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.
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.

Contact Us
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