

# If You Think You Have Been Discriminated Against ASSERT YOUR RIGHTS

## FILE A COMPLAINT TO PROTECT YOUR CIVIL RIGHTS AS A NATIVE AMERICAN

Through the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968 (“ICRA”), Congress statutorily imposed on tribal governments provisions similar to those found in the Bill of Rights. Commonly known as the Indian Bill of Rights, the ICRA provides protections similar, but not identical, to those provided by the U.S. Constitution. Tribal forums are available to enforce rights created by the ICRA. Federal courts do not oversee tribal compliance with the ICRA, except in cases of habeas corpus.

Civil rights laws passed by Congress protect all citizens, including Native Americans and non-Native Americans. Therefore, any Native American can bring a discrimination complaint if he or she suffers discrimination by the federal, state, or local governments, or individuals on account of race, color, creed, religion, sex, or national origin with respect to housing, employment, commercial transactions, or access to public accommodations.

*(Source: The United States Commission on Civil Rights, December 2007)*

### You may file a complaint to a U.S. Department of Justice below or both:

U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division  
Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530  
(202) 514-2151  
Fax: (202) 514-0293  
[www.usdoj.gov/crt](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt)

U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Tribal Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 2318  
Washington, D.C. 20530  
(202) 514-8812  
Fax: (202) 514-9078  
[www.usdoj.gov/otj](http://www.usdoj.gov/otj)

### You may file a complaint to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights ([www.usccr.gov](http://www.usccr.gov)):

U.S. Commission on Civil Rights  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office - Regional Director  
Denver Place  
999 18th Street, Suite 1380, South Tower  
Denver, CO 80202  
(303) 866-1040  
FAX: (303) 866-1050

*For: Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota,  
South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.*

U.S. Commission on Civil Rights  
Western Regional Office - Regional Director  
300 North Los Angeles Street, Suite 2010  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 894-3437  
Fax: (213) 894-0508

*For: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada,  
Oregon, Texas and Washington.*

Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission  
P.O. Box 129  
St. Michaels, Navajo Nation (AZ)  
86511

Phone: (928) 871-7436  
Fax: (928) 871-7437  
[www.nnhrc.navajo-nsn.com](http://www.nnhrc.navajo-nsn.com)

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You may file a complaint to the U.S. Attorney's state office ([www.usanet.usa.doj.gov](http://www.usanet.usa.doj.gov)):

U.S. Attorney Office for the District of Arizona  
Two Renaissance Square  
40 North Central Ave., Suite 1200  
Phoenix, AZ 85004-4408  
(602) 514-7500  
Fax: (602) 514-7693

U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Mexico  
P.O. Box 607  
Albuquerque, NM 87103  
(505) 346-7274  
Fax: (505) 346-7296

U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado  
Seventeenth Street Plaza  
1225 17th St. Suite 700  
Denver, CO 80202  
(303) 454-0100  
Fax: (303) 454--0411

U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado  
Seventeenth Street Plaza  
1225 17th St. Suite 700  
Denver, CO 80202  
(303) 454-0100  
Fax: (303) 454--0411

You may file a complaint to a state's Civil or Human Rights' office:

Arizona Attorney General's Office  
Civil Rights and Public Advocacy Division  
1275 West Washington St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
(602) 542-5263

Albuquerque Human Rights Office  
Investigations Unit  
P.O. Box 1293  
Albuquerque, NM 87103  
(505) 924-3380

Denver Anti-Discrimination Office  
Agency for Human Rights and Community Relations  
201 W. Colfax Ave, Dept 1102, 12th Floor  
Denver, CO 80202  
(720) 913-8450/8459

Salt Lake City Office of Diversity & Human Rights  
P.O. Box 14534  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114  
(801) 535-7734

## What Should You Expect When You Call To ASSERT YOUR RIGHTS?

continue reading ...

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# If You Decide to File A Complaint to ASSERT YOUR RIGHTS

## EXPECT TO LEARN ABOUT DEADLINES AND ABOUT THE AGENCY'S PROCESS TO FILE A COMPLAINT

**DEADLINES** Generally, most government agencies require that complaints be postmarked within a certain amount of days of the discriminatory action. You should inquire about the specific deadlines that may apply to your case.

### WRITE OUT YOUR COMPLAINT: TYPE OR PRINT

Your complaint should be writing, preferably typed or printed neatly.

### DATE AND SIGN IT

### IT SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Your name;
- Your address;
- Your home and work telephone numbers;
- The names(s) and address(es) of the person(s) and/or establishment you believe to have discriminated against you;
- A description of the act(s). This should include the date and place of the action(s), and what you believe to be the basis for discrimination (race, sex, etc.); and
- The name(s), address(es), and telephone numbers) of any person(s) with information concerning your complaint.

When your complaint is investigated, you may be asked to provide copies of receipts, contracts, or other records supporting your claim of discrimination. Any materials that you would want returned should not be sent with your initial complaint.

### TAKE OWNERSHIP AND REMAIN AN ACTIVE & COOPERATIVE PARTICIPANT

