

WHAT IS TITLE VI?

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is a federal law that protects individuals and groups from discrimination on the basis of race, color and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance.

WHY DOES THE OFFICE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY OF THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL INVESTIGATE TITLE VI DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS?

The Metropolitan Council operates a variety of federally assisted programs including:

- Public transportation
- Housing and community development
- Wastewater treatment

Because we receive federal funding we are required to uphold anti-discrimination laws.

WHAT DISCRIMINATION IS PROHIBITED BY TITLE VI?

There are many forms of illegal discrimination based on race, color, or national origin that can limit the opportunities of minorities to gain equal access to services and programs.

The Council cannot on the basis of race, color, or national origin:

- Deny program service, aid, or benefits.
- Provide different service, aid, or benefit, or provide them differently than for others.
- Segregate or separately treat individuals in any matter related to receiving any service, aid or benefit.

“Simple justice requires that public funds, to which all taxpayers of all races contribute, not be spent in any fashion which encourages, entrenches, subsidizes or results in racial discrimination.”

- President John F. Kennedy, in his 1963 message calling for the enactment of title VI

CONTACT US

560 6th Ave North
Minneapolis, MN
Phone: 612.349.7683

Email: TitleVIComplaints@metc.state.mn.us

metro council.org

FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION YOUR GUIDE TO TITLE VI DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS

Office of Equal Opportunity

YOUR RIGHTS UNDER TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

TITLE VI AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

On February 11th, 1994, President Clinton signed Executive Order 12898: Federal Action to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations.

Its purpose is to focus federal attention on the environmental and human health effects of federal actions on minority and low-income populations. The goal is to achieve environmental protection for all communities.

The Council pledges to avoid or reduce harmful human health and environmental effects on minority and low-income populations.

TITLE VI AND LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP)

On August 11th, 2000, President Clinton signed Executive Order 13166: Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency.

Federal agencies are required to examine the services they provide, identify any need for services to people with limited English proficiency, and develop and carry out ways to provide those services so LEP persons can have meaningful access to them.

WHO IS A LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT PERSON?

If you do not speak English as your primary language and have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English, you are considered to be limited English proficient.

HOW DO I FILE A COMPLAINT?

If you believe you have been subjected to discrimination based on your race, color, or national origin, you or someone on your behalf may file a complaint within 180 calendar days of the alleged discrimination.

When you write out your complaint, you should include:

- Your name, address and telephone number. If you are filing on behalf of another person, include your name, address, telephone number, and your relation to that person (for example, friend, attorney, parent, other relative.)
- The name of the agency, department or persons you believe discriminated against you.
- How, why and when you believe you were discriminated against. Include as much specific, detailed information as possible about the alleged acts of discrimination.
- The names of any person that the Metropolitan Council could contact for additional information to support or clarify your allegations.
- Your complaint must be signed and dated.

If you would like to use a form to fill out your information, the Metropolitan Council has a printable complaint form on our website: <http://bit.ly/MC-OEO>

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I FILE A TITLE VI DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT?

Once you have filed a complaint, the Council's Office of Equal Opportunity will determine whether it has jurisdiction to investigate the issues you raised.

If the complaint meets the requirements, the Council will notify you (the person making the complaint) in writing within 7 calendar days. You will then have 10 calendar days to get in contact with the Council.

Within 60 calendar days, the Council's will complete the final investigative report and a copy of the complaint will be forwarded to the appropriate Federal agency and to the persons involved in the complaint.

If you (the person who filed the complaint) are not satisfied with the result, you may file a complaint with the Federal Transportation Administration.

Please note that a complaint may be dismissed for the following reasons:

- The person making the complaint requests the withdrawal of the complaint.
- The person making the complaint fails to respond to requests for additional information that is needed to process the complaint.