

Dispute Resolution Procedures

What is discrimination?

Discrimination is different treatment which makes a distinction of one person or a group of persons from others; either intentionally, by neglect, or by the actions or lack of actions based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, age, political affiliation, or limited English proficiency.

What is prohibited?

- Being denied any service or benefit provided under a federally funded program;
- Being subjected to segregation or separate treatment in a federally funded program;
- Being provided any service or benefit which is different or is provided in a different manner from the way the service is provided to others;
- Being denied access to a service because buildings or facilities are not physically accessible to persons with disabilities or because no accommodation was provided;
- Being provided services without an interpreter in the primary language of a participant who has limited English proficiency;
- Being legally denied benefits because of your religious beliefs or political affiliations.

What informal dispute resolution is available?

If you believe you have been discriminated against in Extension programming, we ask that you first try to resolve the issue with the Cooperative Extension employee providing the program or service or contact the County Extension Director to request their assistance in resolving the issue.

What if the dispute is not resolved?

If the issue cannot be resolved at the local level, a complaint can be filed in writing with NC Cooperative Extension. Correspondence should be sent to: Director, NC State Extension, Campus Box 7602, Raleigh, NC 27695-7602 or call (919) 515-2813 or Administrator, The Extension Program at N.C. A&T State University, Box 21928, Greensboro, NC 27420 or call (336) 334-7956.

How can I file a discrimination complaint with the USDA?

Formal complaints alleging discrimination may also be made with the USDA. To file a complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/node/119 or at any USDA office. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form to USDA by: mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410. Additional information may be found at www.ascr.usda.gov

NC State University and N.C. A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity and prohibit discrimination and harassment regardless of age, color, disability, family and marital status, genetic information, national origin, political beliefs, race, religion, sexual identity (including pregnancy) and veteran status. NC State, N.C. A&T, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.