

State laws against discrimination discussed

(Editor's Note: The State laws against discrimination are discussed in this article by the State Human Rights Director, Niel Thomas. First of a series.)

Has anyone ever discriminated against you—treated you differently because you are Native, or because you are a woman?

The Alaska State Commission for Human Rights says many people are discriminated against without being aware of it.

Others may know they are being treated unfairly but don't know what to do about it. One thing is sure: discrimination is against the law, against most people's sense of fairness, and against common decency.

State laws which govern Human Rights Commission say

everyone has to be given equal consideration for jobs, housing, credit, government services and access to public places. Race, sex, age, where a person was born, religion, whether one is pregnant or already has children, and whether or not one is married cannot be considered as

reasons.

People who think their rights have been harmed under this law may get information and help from the Human Rights Commission. It is a State government agency under the Office of the Governor. Its staff and expenses are paid with tax funds: there is no charge for its services.