

# Final thoughts...

## Free Legal Help for Seniors and low-income people

Call to see if you qualify for help  
Based on your income

**888-534-5243**

Monday thru Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Seniors (60+)  
Oklahoma Sixty Plus  
Legal Aid Seniors Helpline

**855-488-6814**

Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma, Inc. does not discriminate in admissions, access, treatment or employment, in its programs or activities on the basis of age, gender, race, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability.

Visit [LegalAidOK.org](http://LegalAidOK.org) for Free Legal Resources



## Coming Soon In The Next Issue

- Criminal Backgrounds
- Reasonable Modifications and Accommodations

**Important!**  
Each case is different.  
This newsletter gives you  
general legal information not  
specific legal advice

A quarterly newspaper written to inform and update the public on Fair Housing laws and trends.

Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma, Inc. presents...

# The Fair Community

## in this issue >>>

- Assistance Animals
- Upcoming Community Events
- Victory for Runt-Runt
- Protected Classes

## Assistance Animals...

- Do not have to be registered
- Do not require a pet deposit
- Do not have to be trained
- Are not breed or species-specific
- Are not considered pets



## Assistance Animals

### "What you need to know"

When you think about an assistance animal, a seeing eye dog probably comes to mind. Today, there are many kinds of assistance animals. An assistance animal can be a dog, cat, guinea pig, lizard, bird, or any other animal. A simple definition of an assistance animal is an animal that helps to alleviate the symptoms of a person's disabilities. These disabilities can be mental or physical. More often than not, it is impossible to tell if a person has a disability based on their outward appearance. If you and are looking for a home to rent, you might be required to provide written verification of the assistance animal. This verification letter who is intimately familiar with your disability. After your landlord accepts the verification, he or she should waive any pet deposit or no-pet policy. This does not protect you from the costs for any damages that the assistance animal may cause to the property. The damages will have to be paid to the landlord.

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Issue 1

Want to know more? Call 888-534-5243



# Victory for Runt-Runt

Sylvia had a “Fair Housing” problem and didn't even know it!

Runt-Runt, is Sylvia’s service dog and an assistance animal. She performs life preserving duties for Sylvia, including sleeping by her head to make sure she is breathing, barking to tell her when she is late in taking her diabetes medicine, barking when someone is outside the door, and bringing Sylvia her prosthetic leg.

Her landlord told her to get rid of her dog, a schnauzer-mix named “Runt-Runt,” or have her taken to the pound and killed. Sylvia was distraught, and took her dog to a local vet for boarding, which she could not really afford.

When she got back, there was an eviction notice on her door. Sylvia called LASO for help and the Fair Housing Staff took her case.

*(Continued below ...)*



**Janet Roloff**  
Managing Attorney  
McAlester Law Office



## Have you have been discriminated against:

- as a renter,
- while trying to purchase a house, or
- while applying for a mortgage loan?

Contact our statewide hotline to apply for legal services. Our hotline is open Monday thru Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**1-888-534-5243**



LASO Attorney, Janet Roloff, wrote a demand letter to the manager, copying the regional apartment management company demanding that Sylvia be allowed to return with her dog or HUD and the Oklahoma Attorney General’s Office would be asked to investigate these “Fair Housing” violations.

The regional apartment management company agreed to stop the eviction and Sylvia was allowed to return to her home with Runt-Runt.



## Sylvia & Runt-Runt



# Upcoming Community Events

All of our events listed are free and open to the public.  
For more information, please email [fairhousing@laok.org](mailto:fairhousing@laok.org)



**August 17th**  
**Disability Rights Training**  
1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
**Kiamichi Technology Center**  
107 S. 15th Street  
Hugo, OK 74743

**September 22nd**  
**Fair Housing Summit**  
9 a.m. to noon  
**Offices of GTAR**  
11505 East 43rd St.  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74116

Tulsa Area Fair Housing Partnership hosts this Summit for Housing Providers and for renters!

**August 13th**  
**Backpack Giveaway!**  
9 a.m. to noon  
**West Tulsa United Methodist Church**  
1923 S. Phoenix  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74107

Join the Tulsa Area Fair Housing Partnership for a backpack giveaway and to get free info on Fair Housing Laws!

*The Fair Housing Project has events popping up all around the State. Check us out to find more!*



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[twitter.com/LegalAidSvcs\\_OK](https://twitter.com/LegalAidSvcs_OK)



## Community Organizations >>>

**Need a speaker?**  
Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma has speakers for volunteer, client, or employee events!  
Email: [fairhousing@laok.org](mailto:fairhousing@laok.org)  
Please include your contact information!



When you apply for housing either to rent or own (or for a mortgage loan), you cannot be discriminated against based on any of the following 7 “protected” classes:

- Race
- Color
- Sex
- Disability
- National origin
- Religion
- Familial status (presence of children under the age of 18 in the home, including expectant mothers)

Additional protections may be available depending on where you seek housing.