



Limitations on Federal Housing Eligibility for Individuals with Criminal Records

This chart highlights the restrictions that a person with an existing criminal record can encounter if he or she seeks to obtain housing from a federal program. The chart also shows some of the consequences in federal housing policy for people who engage in criminal activity while living in federal housing.

Crime / Activity	Section 8	Public Housing	HOPWA
Sex offender -lifetime registry	Lifetime ban on admission / Lease termination if discovered	Lifetime ban on admission / Lease termination if discovered	No restrictions
Sex offender - non-lifetime registry	Potentially ineligible for admission / Possible lease termination if discovered	Potentially ineligible for admission / Possible lease termination if discovered	No restrictions
Misdemeanor - all types	Potentially ineligible for admission / Possible lease termination if discovered	Potentially ineligible for admission / Possible lease termination if discovered	No restrictions
Felony - all types	Potentially ineligible for admission / Possible lease termination if discovered	Potentially ineligible for admission / Possible lease termination if discovered	No restrictions
Drug-related “activity” (including “criminal” activity affecting health/safety of residents)	Potentially ineligible for admission / Possible lease termination if discovered	Potentially ineligible for admission / Possible lease termination if discovered	No restrictions
Eviction due to drug-related convictions	Ineligible for federal housing for 3 years unless successfully rehabilitated	Ineligible for federal housing for 3 years unless successfully rehabilitated	No restrictions
Individuals found to have manufactured methamphetamine on premises of federal housing	Lifetime ban on admission / Lease termination if discovered	Lifetime ban on admission / Lease termination if discovered	No restrictions