

TITLE VI AND LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP)

On August 11, 2000, President Clinton signed Executive Order 13166: Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency. Executive Order 13166 obligates departments of transportation and sub-recipients to make certain that people of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) have “meaningful access to benefits, services, information, and other important portions” of MDOT MTA’s programs and activities.

Who is an LEP Person?

Persons who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write or understand English are considered to have a Limited English Proficiency or “LEP.”

What does Title VI Require?

Federal Transit Administration guidance related to LEP individuals requires MDOT MTA to take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to benefits, services, information, and other important portions of their programs and activities for individuals who are Limited English Proficient (LEP). MDOT MTA has developed a Language Assistance Plan to address identified needs of the LEP population(s) it serves. For more information on MDOT MTA’s language assistance resources, please contact the Office of Equal Opportunity Compliance Programs.



HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT

Any person who believes that he or she has been individually, or as a member of any specific class of persons, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any MDOT MTA service, program or activity, and believes the discrimination is based upon race, color, or national origin has the right to file a formal complaint in accordance with the following procedures. Individuals may file a Title VI complaint up to 180 days from the date of the alleged discrimination, by completing and submitting the agency’s Title VI Complaint Form to MDOT MTA’s Office of Equal Opportunity Compliance Programs. The complaint should include the following information:

- Your name, address, and how to contact you (i.e., telephone number, email address, etc.)
- How, when, where, and why you believe you were discriminated against. Include the location, names and contact information of any witnesses.

The complaint may be filed in writing by fax or online to:

Office of Equal Opportunity & Compliance Programs
MDOT Maryland Transit Administration
6 Saint Paul St., Baltimore, MD 21202-1614*
fax: 410-333-1015*
website: mta.maryland.gov/complaints*

OR

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
Office of Civil Rights
East Building, 5th Floor – TCR
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590*

**A signed written complaint must be submitted to either agency within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory act.*

For more information, or to request this document in an alternate format or translated into another language, please contact the department listed below.

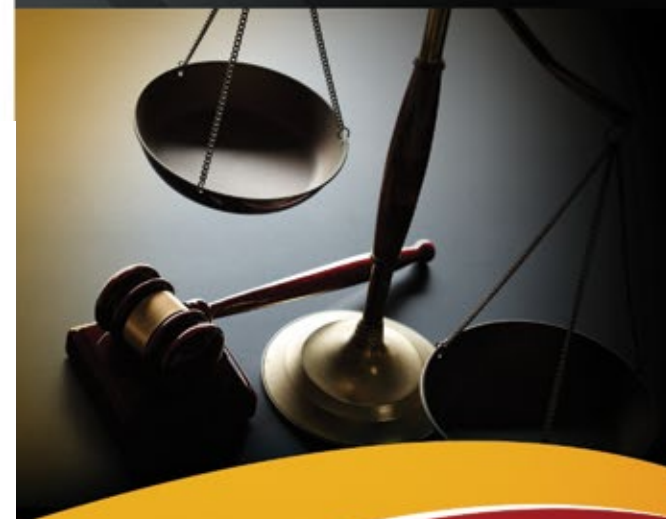
Para mas información o para solicitar este documento en un formato alternativo o traducido a otro idioma, por favor contacte el departamento enlistado abajo.

MDOT MTA Transit Information Contact Center • 410-539-5000 • 866-743-3682 • TTY 410-539-3497 • MD Relay Users Dial 7-1-1



TITLE VI

YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964



MDOT
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION
MARYLAND TRANSIT
ADMINISTRATION



MDOT MTA FAIR PRACTICE POLICY (TITLE VI)

The Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA) is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any MDOT MTA Service, program or activity on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

WHAT IS TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964?

Title VI provides as follows: “no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under a program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.” [42 U.S.C. 2000d]. In addition to complying with this anti-discrimination prohibition, MDOT MTA and its sub-recipients also consider the effects its services, programs, and activities may have upon minority and low income communities.

DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED BY TITLE VI

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

Among other things, in operating a federally-assisted program MDOT MTA and its sub-recipients cannot on the basis of race, color, or national origin, either directly or indirectly:

- Deny program services, aids, or benefits
- Provide a different service, aid, or benefit, or provide them in a manner differently than they are provided to others
- Segregate or separately treat individuals in any matter related to the receipt of any services, aid, or benefit.

TITLE VI & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

On February 11, 1994, President Clinton signed Executive Order 12898: Federal Action to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations. The Executive Order provides that “each Federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human

health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations.” In support of Executive Order 12898, the U.S. DOT issued an Order on Environmental Justice (DOT Order 5610.2). This order clarifies and reinforces Title VI and other responsibilities in federally financed transportation projects.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Another integral component of Environmental Justice is public involvement in the planning and development of transportation projects. MDOT MTA and its sub-recipients provide minority and low-income populations greater access to information on and opportunities for public participation in matters that may impact their health and environment. Public participation is accomplished in a variety of ways such as public hearings, open houses, and community outreach. MDOT MTA strives for public involvement as early as possible in the planning and development stages of major transportation projects.

