

Notifying the Public of Rights Under Title VI

Becoming Independent

- **Becoming Independent** operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, and national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Any person who believes she or he has been aggrieved by any unlawful discriminatory practice under Title VI may file a complaint with **Becoming Independent**.
- For more information on **Becoming Independent's** civil rights program, and the procedures to file a complaint, contact **707-524-6600**, or visit our administrative office at **1455 Corporate Center Parkway, Santa Rosa, CA 95407**. For more information, visit info@becomingindependent.org.
 - A complainant may file a complaint directly with the Federal Transit Administration by filing a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights, Attention: Title VI Program Coordinator, East Building, 5th Floor-TCR, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20590
 - If information is needed in another language, contact **707-524-6600**.

Title VI Complaint Procedures

As a recipient of federal dollars, [Becoming Independent](#) is required to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and ensure that services and benefits are provided on a non-discriminatory basis. [Becoming Independent](#) has in place a Title VI Complaint Procedure, which outlines a process for local disposition of Title VI complaints and is consistent with guidelines found in the Federal Transit Administration Circular 4702.1B, dated October 1, 2012.

Any person who believes she or he has been discriminated against on the basis of race, color, or national origin by [Becoming Independent](#) may file a Title VI complaint by completing and submitting the agency's Title VI Complaint Form. [Becoming Independent](#) investigates complaints received no more than 180 days after the alleged incident. [Becoming Independent](#) will only process complaints that are complete.

Within 10 business days of receiving the complaint, [Becoming Independent](#) will review it to determine if our office has jurisdiction. The complainant will receive an acknowledgement letter informing her/him whether the complaint will be investigated by our office. [Becoming Independent](#) has 30 days to investigate the complaint. The complainant will be notified in writing of the cause to any planned extension to the 30-day rule.

If more information is needed to resolve the case, [Becoming Independent](#) may contact the complainant. The complainant has 10 business days from the date of the letter to send requested information to the investigator assigned to the case. If the investigator is not contacted by the complainant or does not receive the additional information within 10 business days [Becoming Independent](#) can administratively close the case.

A case can be administratively closed also if the complainant no longer wishes to pursue their case. After the investigator reviews the complaint, she/he will issue one of two letters to the complainant: a closure letter or a letter of finding (LOF). A closure letter summarizes the allegations and states that there was not a Title VI violation and that the case will be closed. An LOF summarizes the allegations and the interviews regarding the alleged incident, and explains whether any disciplinary action, additional training of the staff member, or other action will occur. If the complainant wishes to appeal the decision, she/he has 10 business days after the date of the letter or the LOF to do so.

A person may also file a complaint directly with the Federal Transit Administration, at FTA Office of Civil Rights, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

Becoming Independent Title VI Complaint Form

COMPLAINT FORM

Section I: Please write legibly		
1. Name:		
2. Address:		
3. Telephone:	3.a. Secondary Phone (Optional):	
4. Email Address:		
5. Accessible Format Requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/> Large Print	<input type="checkbox"/> Audio Tape
	<input type="checkbox"/> TDD	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Section II:		
6. Are you filing this complaint on your own behalf?	YES*	NO
*If you answered "yes" to #6, go to Section III.		
7. If you answered "no" to #6, what is the name of the person for whom you are filing this complaint? Name:		
8. What is your relationship with this individual:		
9. Please explain why you have filed for a third party:		
10. Please confirm that you have obtained permission of the aggrieved party to file on their behalf.	YES	NO
Section III:		
11. I believe the discrimination I experienced was based on (check all that apply):		
<input type="checkbox"/> Race	<input type="checkbox"/> Color	<input type="checkbox"/> National Origin
12. Date of alleged discrimination: (mm/dd/yyyy)		
13. Explain as clearly as possible what happened and why you believe you were discriminated against. Describe all persons who were involved. Include the name and contact information of the person(s) who discriminated against you (if known), as well as names and contact information of any witnesses. If more space is needed, please attach additional sheets of paper.		

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COMPLAINT FORM

Section IV:		
14. Have you previously filed a Title VI complaint with Becoming Independent ?	YES	NO
Section V:		
15. Have you filed this complaint with any other Federal, State, or local agency, or with any Federal or State court? <input type="checkbox"/> YES* <input type="checkbox"/> NO If yes, check all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Agency _____ <input type="checkbox"/> State Agency _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Court _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Local Agency _____ <input type="checkbox"/> State Court _____		
16. If you answered "yes" to #15, provide information about a contact person at the agency/court where the complaint was filed.		
Name: _____		
Title: _____		
Agency: _____		
Address: _____		
Telephone: _____		Email: _____
Section VI:		
Name of Transit Agency complaint is against: _____		
Contact Person: _____		
Telephone: _____		

You may attach any written materials or other information that you think is relevant to your complaint.

Signature and date are required below to complete form:

Signature _____ Date _____

Please submit this form in person or mail this form to the address below:

[Becoming Independent](#), Title VI Coordinator
 1455 Corporate Center Parkway
 Santa Rosa, CA 95407