

Legalized Racism: Restrictive Housing in San Mateo County

In the United States, the sale of land often includes complex restrictions that accompany the lot deed, known as "covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs)". Beginning in the late 1800s, these restrictions often included exclusionary covenants to restrict the sale of property to certain races. This was true across San Mateo County where racially-restrictive deeds can be found in virtually every city. In 1948, the landmark Supreme Court case *Shelley v. Kraemer* rendered these racial restrictions unenforceable, and years later they were declared unconstitutional. Although these clauses have no legality today, they can still be found in the deeds of many homes. This poster shows examples of this racially restricted language in deeds across San Mateo County.

