

HOUSING AND THE LAW: LESSON 4: KEY TERMS**KEY TERMS**

- **restrictive covenant:** agreements written into property deeds that restricted what a homeowner could do with their property via contract law
- **racial covenant:** agreements written into property deeds that excluded people of certain races from owning or living on/in a property via contract law
- **zoning ordinance:** rules adopted and enforced by local governments that decide how specific sections of land can be used
- **unconstitutional:** when government action goes against or violates the rights granted by the U.S. Constitution
- **petitioners:** plaintiffs in a lawsuit; those that bring forth an action
- **respondents:** defendants in a lawsuit; those who have an action brought against them
- **due process:** a person must receive fair treatment and have their rights respected in the judicial system
- **Fourteenth Amendment:** an 1868 amendment to the Constitution that granted citizenship and equal civil and legal rights to African Americans and the formerly enslaved who had been emancipated after the Civil War.
- **equal protection clause:** part of the Fourteenth Amendment that grants everyone equal protection under the laws
- **Thirteenth Amendment:** the 1865 amendment abolished slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime
- **Fifth Amendment:** mandates due process of the law
- **private sale:** transaction between a buyer and seller that is not open to the general public
- **public interest:** refers to the welfare of the general public
- **impair:** to weaken or damage something
- **grievance:** a formal complaint about a real or imagined wrong
- **municipality:** a basic unit of local government designated as a town or city
- **curtail:** to cut short, reduce, or diminish
- **annulled:** declared invalid
- **depreciate:** reduce in value
- **indenture:** legal contract or document
- **inter alia:** among other things
- **statutory:** required or permitted by statute (a written law)
- **void:** not valid or legally binding
- **jurisdiction:** the power to make legal decisions; the area over which legal authority extends