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## GENERAL NEWS

### DOJ Files Sexual Harassment Suit against IA Landlord

In a [press release](#) last Friday, the Department of Justice ([DOJ](#)) announced that it has filed a lawsuit against a landlord and property management company in Davenport, Iowa, for engaging in sexual harassment and retaliation in violation of the [Fair Housing Act](#).

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa, alleges that since at least 2010, the landlord has sexually harassed numerous female tenants by subjecting them to unwelcome sexual contact, exposing himself, making requests for sex in exchange for reduced rent or other housing benefits, and evicting tenants who refused his sexual advances. The lawsuit seeks monetary damages to compensate persons harmed by the alleged harassment, civil penalties to vindicate the public interest, and a court order barring future discrimination.

The Fair Housing Act prohibits harassment of tenants and other forms of housing discrimination because of race, sex, color, national origin, disability, religion, and familial status. In October 2017, the DOJ's Civil Rights Division [announced](#) the [Sexual Harassment in Housing Initiative](#). The initiative specifically seeks to increase the Department's efforts to protect individuals from harassment by landlords, property managers, maintenance workers, security guards, and other employees and representatives of rental property owners. Since launching the Initiative, the Department has filed 48 lawsuits alleging sexual harassment in housing.



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