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GENERAL NEWS

Treasury Posts New ERAP Resources

The U.S. Department of the Treasury ([Treasury](#)) has posted the following resources to the Emergency Rental Assistance Program ([ERAP](#)) website:

- Updated Emergency Rental Assistance frequently asked questions ([FAQs](#))
- [Notice](#) to ERA2 grantees clarifying that they may use their ERA2 award funds to cover expenses for the acquisition of real property and predevelopment activities to enable construction, rehabilitation, or preservation of affordable rental housing projects serving very low-income families.

You can find more ERA resources on the [ERAP website](#).

DOJ Files Sexual Harassment Suit against New Mexico Property Manager

In a [press release](#) yesterday, the Department of Justice ([DOJ](#)) announced that it has filed a lawsuit against a property manager in New Mexico for sexually harassing female tenants in violation of the [Fair Housing Act](#). The lawsuit further alleges that the owners of the property are vicariously liable for the manager's discriminatory conduct because he acted as their agent when he sexually harassed tenants.

The [lawsuit](#), filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico, alleges that between 2010 and 2022, the property manager requested sex acts from female tenants, subjected female tenants to unwelcome sexual touching, made unwelcome sexual comments and advances to female tenants, locked female tenants in his office to demand sex acts, demanded that female tenants engage in sex acts with him in order not to lose housing, and entered female tenants' homes in the guise of conducting property management work to demand sex acts. The lawsuit seeks monetary damages to compensate persons harmed by the alleged harassment, a civil penalty 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 39 lawsuits alleging sexual harassment in housing.



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