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GENERAL NEWS

DOJ Settles Sexual Harassment Suit against Connecticut Landlord

In a [press release](#) yesterday, the Department of Justice ([DOJ](#)) announced that it has secured an agreement to resolve a lawsuit alleging that a landlord in Connecticut violated the [Fair Housing Act](#) by sexually harassing female tenants and applicants. The settlement also resolves claims against the co-owners of the properties.

The lawsuit, filed in February 2019, alleged that from at least 2011 through 2016, the landlord sexually harassed female tenants and applicants by making unwelcome sexual advances and comments, engaging in unwanted sexual touching, demanding or pressuring female applicants to engage in sexual acts to obtain rental privileges, evicting or threatening to evict female tenants who objected to or refused sexual advances, entering the homes of female tenants without their consent, asking to take and taking pictures and videos of the bodies of his tenants and their female children and establishing, maintaining and forcing his tenants and their minor female children to view “dungeons” or “sex rooms” in the rental properties. The landlord has been in prison since 2017. He is serving a 16-year sentence in federal prison, following his guilty plea to charges related to producing child pornography with a tenant’s minor child in one of the properties he managed.

Under the [consent decree](#), subject to approval by the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut, defendants are required to pay \$350,000 to compensate individuals harmed by the harassment and pay a \$50,000 civil penalty to the United States. The consent decree also prohibits the landlord from owning and managing residential rental properties in the future. The property owners must hire an independent property manager to manage their properties, obtain fair housing training and implement nondiscrimination policies and complaint procedures to prevent sexual harassment at their properties.



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