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GENERAL NEWS

HUD Launches Fair Housing and Civil Rights Webpage, Fair Housing Toolkit

HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity ([FHEO](#)) [announced](#) that it is sponsoring the [Fair Housing and Civil Rights](#) webpage, which contains resources and trainings aimed at helping HUD program participants and the public understand fair housing and civil rights laws and regulations. According to the announcement, more resources and training will be added in the future. You can access the new webpage [here](#) on the [HUD Exchange](#) website.

Additionally, HUD has launched a [Fair Housing Planning Toolkit](#) that may be used to support program participants certification that they will affirmatively further fair housing. As you recall, HUD's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing ([AFFH](#)) Interim Final Rule ([IFR](#)) requires program participants to submit certifications that they will affirmatively further fair housing in connection with their consolidated plans, annual action plans, and PHA plans. To support these certifications, the IFR creates a voluntary fair housing planning process for which HUD will provide technical assistance and support. The modules in the toolkit will guide program participants through undertaking fair housing planning.

DOJ Settles Sexual Harassment Suit against Missouri Landlord

In a [press release](#) last week, the Department of Justice ([DOJ](#)) announced that it has secured a settlement resolving allegations that a Missouri landlord violated the [Fair Housing Act](#) by sexually harassing multiple female tenants.

The lawsuit, filed in September 2022, alleged that the defendant subjected multiple female tenants to harassment that included making unwelcome sexual advances, offering to reduce rent or security deposits in exchange for engaging in sex acts, requesting sexually explicit photos, staring at female tenants' bodies in a sexual way, subjecting female tenants to unwelcome sexual touching, and visiting and entering female tenants' homes for no legitimate purpose. The matter was referred to the Justice Department after HUD received two separate complaints alleging that the defendant had violated the Fair Housing Act.

Under the agreement, subject to approval by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, the defendant is required to pay \$85,000 to compensate individuals harmed by the harassment and \$20,000 to compensate the nonprofit organization that helped the tenant file a complaint with HUD for resources it expended responding to the reported harassment. The defendant is also required to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty to the United States. In addition, the consent order requires the defendant to retain an independent property manager to manage his rental properties for the duration of the order, obtain fair housing training and implement nondiscrimination policies and complaint procedures to prevent sexual harassment at his properties in the future.



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Nan McKay & Associates, 1810 Gillespie Way, Suite 202, El Cajon, CA 92020, USA, 1-800-783-3100
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