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GENERAL NEWS

DOJ Settles Sexual Harassment Suit against Kansas Housing Providers

In a [press release](#) Friday, the U.S. Department of Justice ([DOJ](#)) announced that it has reached a settlement with the owners and managers of rental properties in Kansas involving sexual harassment. The settlement resolves a [complaint](#) filed in 2017 alleging that the housing providers violated the [Fair Housing Act](#) by subjecting female tenants to sexual harassment that included making unwelcome sexual advances and comments, engaging in unwanted sexual touching, and terminating the tenancies of women who refused to do so.

Under the terms of the agreement, the housing providers will pay a total monetary settlement of \$160,000 in damages and civil penalties. The consent order also bars the defendants from participating in the rental or management of residential properties in the future.

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 13 lawsuits.



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