



Did You Know...

April 6, 2023

Sexual Harassment is Illegal: Know Your Rights!

Did you know sexual harassment by a landlord, maintenance worker, or anyone with authority, control over, or official access to your rental property is against the law? No one should have to choose between having a roof over their head and the threat of being sexually harassed or sexually assaulted by their housing provider. Sexual harassment is illegal: Know your rights!

The following examples are based on incidents of sexual harassment and misconduct in public housing that has been reported to and investigated by HUD OIG:

- A landlord asked for sex in exchange for renting an apartment and accepting a Housing Choice Voucher also known as a Section 8 voucher.
- A tenant falls behind on rent and the building manager demands sex from the tenant to avoid eviction.
- A landlord or property manager touched a prospective tenant inappropriately when showing them an apartment for rent.
- A maintenance man will not do any repairs in an apartment unless the tenant has sex with him.
- A housing authority official offers to move a prospective tenant up on housing waitlist in exchange for sex.
- A landlord makes sexually suggestive comments to a tenant causing the tenant to alter their daily routines to avoid interacting with the landlord.
- A security guard in a building makes comments about a tenant's body, has access to their personal information, and sends the tenant provocative messages. The tenant suspects the guard is entering their apartment without permission or an official purpose.
- A landlord asks tenants to go to areas away from his business office (isolated from other people) and asks them to give him a massage or engages in sexually suggestive conversations with them.
- A maintenance worker asks, "*what's in it for me,*" when asked to make repairs to a unit.



If you have experienced any of the behaviors above, or know someone in public housing who has, report it to HUD OIG. Our investigations have helped stop bad actors by pursuing criminal and civil prosecutions against them and eliminating their ability to be a landlord or building manager and secured monetary settlements for victims and jail time for offenders.

What happens next?

HUD OIG is expanding its efforts to ensure tenants who receive rental assistance from HUD are protected from sexual misconduct in housing. Our most important partner in this fight is YOU!

If you, or someone you know has been a victim of sexual harassment, sexual assault, or sexual exploitation— even if the harassment occurred many years ago—please report it!

You have the right to be protected. Together we can protect our communities from sexual predators and promote a safe and healthy housing environment for everyone.

Report allegations of sexual misconduct here:

- The HUD Office of Inspector General Hotline at 1-800-347-3735 or visit our website at, <https://www.hudoig.gov/hotline>.
- Public Service Announcement: [Sexual Harassment in Housing is ILLEGAL. Fair Housing is your RIGHT.](#)
- The DOJ Sexual Harassment in Housing Initiative 1-844-380-6178, <https://civilrights.justice.gov>.

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