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Quick Reference for Partners: Sexual Misconduct in Housing

- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducts independent audits, evaluations, investigations, and other reviews of HUDs programs to protect against fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, and misconduct.
- HUD OIG's oversight responsibilities include making timely recommendations to improve the economy and efficiency of HUD programs and operations.
- In March 2023, HUD OIG expanded its efforts to ensure tenants who receive rental assistance from HUD are protected from sexual misconduct in housing by pursuing and investigating predatory landlords and other housing providers with authority and control over HUD assisted housing.
- Sexual misconduct in housing includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, and other unwelcomed sexual advances or behaviors, such as sexually suggestive comments or questions that make it hard to live and feel safe in your home.
- Every person deserves to find and stay in housing without facing the threat of being sexually harassed by a landlord.
- No one should be turned away or evicted from HUD assisted housing for choosing not to submit to sexual demands, advances, or inappropriate behavior.
- HUD OIG 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.
- HUD OIG is working with its law enforcement partners to vigorously pursue, investigate, and seek justice for survivors and to hold housing providers accountable for sexually assaulting or harassing HUD tenants.
- 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.
- HUD OIG wants survivors of this unlawful behavior to know that they have a choice and a voice, and we want to hear from them.
- HUD Office of Inspector General Hotline: 1-800-347-3735 or visit <u>https://www.hudoig.gov/hotline</u>.

