



Sexual Harassment in Housing

What is sexual harassment in housing?

Sexual harassment in housing is when a landlord or their employees:

- make unwelcome sexual advances
- demand sex or sexual favors
- repeatedly use words or acts of a sexual nature
- rape or sexually assault you



IT IS ILLEGAL

What kinds of housing does the law apply to?

The law can apply to all kinds of housing. This includes privately owned houses, apartment buildings, condo associations, public housing, and homeless shelters.

What are some examples of sexual harassment in housing?

When the landlord or their employees

- ask you out on a date
- ask you to trade sex or sexual favors for rent
- threaten to evict you because you refuse to have sex with them
- won't make repairs because you won't have sex or because you tell them to stop
- make sexual comments to you that make you feel threatened or uncomfortable
- touch you in an unwanted sexual way
- rape or sexually assault you

It does not matter if you go along with it or refuse. Even if you have gone along with demands for sex in the past, **you have the right to stop it now.**

What can I do?

The most important thing is safety -Call for help! **If you are assaulted, call 911.**

- If you are not comfortable reporting to the police but want to talk to someone, call Day One Crisis Line at [866-223-1111](tel:866-223-1111), text 612-399-9995, or email safety@dayoneservices.org.

- You can file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Minnesota Department of Human Rights or a city agency. Call them for information on what to do. They will investigate your claim for free. In most cases, you need to file a complaint or lawsuit within 1 or sometimes 2 years.

MN Department of Human Rights

Griggs Midway Building
540 Fairview Ave North, Suite 201
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104

Phone: 651-539-1100 or 800-657-3704
MN Relay: 711 or 800-627-3529



Report discrimination online at <https://mn.gov/mdhr/intake/consultationinquiryform/>
Discrimination helpline: 651-539-1100 or 833-454-0148
Email at: info.mdhr@state.mn.us Website at: www.mn.gov/mdhr/

Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Minneapolis Field Office
212 Third Ave South, Suite 150
Minneapolis MN 55401

Phone: 612-370-3000
Website at: <https://www.hud.gov/states/minnesota#LocalOffice>

Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Great Lakes Regional Office
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604

Phone: 312-353-5680
Website at: <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/states/illinois>

- Call a lawyer to talk about your options. A lawyer can:
 - Get a court order to keep the landlord or landlord’s employees away from you
 - Fight eviction that your landlord filed because of your response to sexual harassment
 - Start a civil rights case and ask the court to make the landlord pay money damages to you

Know Your Rights

- It is illegal for a landlord or landlord's employees to make you have sex with them by threatening to evict you if you don't.
- It is illegal for a landlord or landlord's employees to make unwanted sexual comments to you that make you feel intimidated.
- If you are being sexually harassed by your landlord or landlord's employees, tell them to stop.
- Write down what happened to you while it is still fresh in your memory. It is important to have written records.
- It is illegal for a landlord to evict you because you called the police for help.

You have the right to be free from sexual harassment.



To Learn More

Call your local legal aid office at [877-696-6529](tel:877-696-6529).

Look for other programs that may help at www.lawhelpmn.org/providers-and-clinics.

Go to www.LawHelpMN.org for more information about fair housing rights and resources.

Fact Sheets are legal information NOT legal advice. See a lawyer for advice.

Don't use this fact sheet if it is more than 1 year old. Ask us for updates, a fact sheet list, or alternate formats.

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