

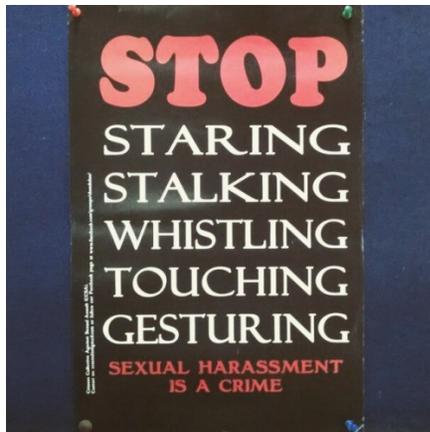
IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Fair Housing Hotline
337.721.4005

Acadiana Legal Services
337.439.0377

Southwest Legal Law Center
337.436.3308

Oasis A Safe Haven for Survivors of
Domestic and Sexual Violence
337.436.4552
Rape Hotline 337.494.7273



CALCASIEU PARISH POLICE JURY FAIR HOUSING

2001 Moeling Street
Lake Charles, La 70601
Fair Housing Phone: 337.721.4005
Fax: 337.721.3582
Contact: Kristin Brooks
E-mail: karceneaux@cppj.net
Website: www.cppj.net/fairhousing



CITY OF LAKE CHARLES COMMUNITY SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT

326 Pujo Street 5th Floor
Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601
337.491.1440

Sexual Harassment in Housing
is Against the Law

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND HOUSING

Have you experienced unwanted touching, any type of unwanted sexual advances, sexual jokes, comments or gestures in your rental housing?

Fair Housing laws may help **YOU**.

THE RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN RENTAL HOUSING

1. What are my rights?

Under state and federal laws, it is illegal for landlords or their employees to discriminate against tenants because of their sex. They also cannot sexually harass tenants. These laws are known as “fair housing laws.” They may protect you from sexual harassment and discrimination in housing.

2. What is sexual harassment?

Sexual harassment can be many things, such as sexual favors, unwanted sexual advances, touching or comments of a sexual nature.

For example:

- The landlord tells you he’ll only keep renting to you if you go on a date with him/her
- A maintenance person comes to fix your sink and makes sexual jokes, comments, and gestures to you while there
- Your property manager tells you, “I’ll take \$100 off your rent—if you...”
- You experience harassing behavior directed at you because of your sex
- If someone tells you, “your house will not pass inspection or recertification unless you...”

3. Who must obey the law?

Fair housing laws apply to a variety of people, including:

- Landlords
- Property Managers
- Maintenance People
- Other Tenants
- Housing Case Managers
- Inspectors

4. What should I do if I have been sexually harassed?

If you are experiencing sexual harassment, act quickly. Tell someone about it. Write down the following:

- What happened?
- When and where did it happen?
- The name of the harasser
- The name, addresses, and phone numbers of any witnesses or any other tenants who have been harassed

Keep any documents related to the harassment, such as:

- Notes or gifts from the harasser
- Rent increase notices
- Warning notices
- Eviction notices



5. Who can help me?

If you have been sexually harassed in your housing, contact a fair housing agency. They can help explain your rights and options. If you fear that the harasser may harm you or your family, call the police immediately.

6. Can I be evicted if I report the harassment?

It is illegal for the landlord to try to evict you or raise your rent for reporting the harassment. It is also illegal for housing workers to threaten you not to report when you refuse their advances. If you receive any type of eviction notice, call a legal aid office immediately.

7. What are some of my options?

If you are a victim of sexual harassment, some of your options include:

- Having legal aid contact the landlord to make the harassment stop
- Having a fair housing agency investigate the harassment
- Filing a complaint with government agencies
- Suing the harasser in court

You only have a limited time to enforce your rights, so it is important to seek help from legal aid or a fair housing agency