

The Fair Housing Project

The Fair Housing Project of Legal Aid of North Carolina is available to provide information concerning a person's rights under the federal Fair Housing Act. If you believe you are a victim of housing discrimination, contact us at the telephone number below for assistance. Our staff will discuss the situation with you and help you to decide what to do next. Your inquiry will be kept confidential.

When necessary, our staff can assist you in filing a complaint with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or other administrative or judicial bodies.

Fair Housing Project
Legal Aid of North Carolina
P.O. Box 26087
Raleigh, NC 27611
1-855-797-FAIR (3247)
www.fairhousingnc.org

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HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

Sexual Harassment by Your Landlord

**You want me to fix
your stove?
How *bad* do you
want it, honey?**



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Sexual Harassment in Rental Housing

Fair Housing Laws

The federal Fair Housing Act and North Carolina State Fair Housing Act prohibit discrimination against individuals based on **race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, and disability**.

Sexual harassment is discrimination under fair housing laws.

Fair housing laws also make it illegal to coerce, intimidate, threaten or interfere with a person seeking to exercise rights under the Fair Housing Act.

It is illegal for your landlord to try to evict you or to raise your rent for reporting sexual harassment.

What Is Sexual Harassment?

There are generally two types of sexual harassment: *Quid Pro Quo* and Hostile Environment. Often, victims of sexual harassment suffer from both.

(1) *Quid Pro Quo*, or “This for That,” harassment is when a housing provider asks for sex or sexual favors to avoid eviction or in exchange for free rent, repairs, excused late payments or fees, etc.

(2) A Hostile Environment is when a housing provider creates a threatening or uncomfortable environment because of unwanted sexual behavior. Examples include: when your landlord enters your unit without permission, makes unwanted sexual advances or comments, touches you, or threatens to evict you if you turn down his sexual advances.

Sexual harassment can come from a landlord, owner, manager, employee, or neighbor. It does not matter if the harasser is male or female.

How to Stop Sexual Harassment

What to do if you are the victim of sexual harassment in your housing:

- Contact your local sexual assault / domestic violence agency.
 - Keep a journal of incidents of sexual harassment.
 - Keep any documents related to the sexual harassment.
 - Do not wait until an eviction is filed to report sexual harassment by your landlord.
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If your landlord has “ideas” about repairing your unit, collecting “rent,” or “lending a hand,” we have some ideas, too.

Hit your landlord where it hurts and contact the Fair Housing Project at (855) 797-3247