

If you have questions about your housing rights, HRC can help.

The Housing Rights Center (HRC) is the nation's largest local, nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting housing discrimination.

Since 1986, HRC has identified and addressed the challenges of housing discrimination, and continues to expand and diversify its services and programs to meet the residents' evolving Fair Housing needs.

State & federal fair housing laws protect all of us from discrimination based on race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, familial status, marital status, disability, ancestry, age, source of income, and other characteristics protected by law.

HRC provides residents within the **Los Angeles and Ventura Counties** with services including:

- (1) **Housing Counseling** (free)
- (2) **Outreach & Education** (free)
- (3) **Fair Housing Certification Trainings** for housing providers and professionals.

Contact Us

During the COVID-19 pandemic, HRC is providing all services online and by phone.

Toll Free: (800) 477-5977
TTY: (213) 201-0867

Email HRC:
info@housingrightscenter.org

Los Angeles Office

3255 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1150
Los Angeles CA 90010
(213) 387-8400

Van Nuys Office

6320 Van Nuys Blvd., Suite 311
Van Nuys, CA 91401

Pasadena Office

1020 N. Fair Oaks Ave.
Pasadena CA 91103

Office locations are handicap accessible.



www.housingrightscenter.org



Sexual Harassment & Fair Housing

No one should be made to feel unsafe at home.



HOUSING RIGHTS CENTER

WORKING FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY IN HOUSING

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About Sexual Harassment in Housing

Sexual harassment in housing is a form of **sex-based discrimination** prohibited by the Fair Housing Act. There are two main types of sexual harassment: (1) quid pro quo; and (2) hostile environment.

Quid Pro Quo - “Favor for a Favor”

When a housing provider asks a tenant to engage in sexual conduct in exchange for maintaining housing or other housing related services.

Examples Include:

- A landlord tells an applicant he won't rent them an apartment unless they have sex with him.
- A maintenance worker refuses to make repairs unless a tenant gives him nude photos of herself.

Hostile Environment

When a housing provider subjects a person to severe or pervasive unwelcome sexual conduct in a way that interferes with their access to housing (e.g. sale, rental, availability, or terms, conditions, or privileges of housing or housing-related services, including financing).

Examples Include:

- A landlord subjects a tenant to unwelcome touching, kissing, or groping.
- A property manager makes unwelcome, lewd comments about a tenant's body.

Landlord Liability

Landlords must take action when they know of tenant-on-tenant harassment, and can be held liable in court if they do not.

Harassment is Not Gender Specific

A person of any gender can harass another person of any or the same gender.

Harassment Between Tenants

Landlords can be held liable in court if they knew of tenant-on-tenant harassment and did not take action.

Sexual Harassment Motives Vary

Sexual harassment can also be motivated by a variety of reasons beyond sexual desire including: hostility, power, or other reasons. It is still a violation of the FHA.

Reporting Sexual Harassment



Victims have **one year** to file a complaint with a fair housing agency, like the Department of Housing and Urban Development, California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, or the Housing Rights Center, which can investigate the complaint at no cost to the tenant.

Victims have **two years** to file a private legal action.

If you've experienced harassment in a housing situation, call the **Housing Rights Hotline: 1-800-477-5977** or visit housingrightscenter.org to learn your rights.

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