



**If you need help, call the Fair Housing Project toll-free: 855-797-3247**

## **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.**

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

It is also illegal to coerce, intimidate, or interfere with a person seeking to exercise rights under the Fair Housing Act.

## **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 the Fair Housing Project.
- Contact your local sexual assault/ domestic violence agency.
- Keep any documents related to the harassment.
- Keep a journal of incidents of sexual harassment.
- Do not wait until you are evicted before you report sexual harassment.

**If your landlord has "ideas" about repairing your unit, collecting "rent," or "lending a hand," we have some ideas, too.**

**Contact the Fair Housing Project at 855-797-3247**