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GENERAL NEWS

DOJ Files Disability Discrimination Lawsuit against Village in Illinois

In a [press release](#) last week, the U.S. Department of Justice ([DOJ](#)) announced that it has filed a lawsuit alleging that a village in Illinois has violated the [Fair Housing Act](#) by discriminating against persons with disabilities.

According to the press release, the lawsuit alleges that the village has discriminated by prohibiting group homes for persons with disabilities from operating in single-family residential districts and by failing to provide reasonable accommodations to its zoning code for such homes. The case arose when the village prohibited a group home for persons with disabilities in recovery from drug or alcohol addiction to operate and refused to consider the home's request for an accommodation. "The Fair Housing Act prohibits local governments from applying their zoning laws in a manner that discriminates against persons with disabilities," said Eric Dreiband, Assistant Attorney General for the DOJ's Civil Rights Division.

The [lawsuit](#) seeks a court order prohibiting the village from discriminating against the home at issue in this case or other group homes for persons with disabilities. It also seeks monetary damages for persons harmed by the village's actions, as well as payment of a civil penalty.



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Nan McKay & Associates, 1810 Gillespie Way, Suite 202, El Cajon, CA 92020, United States, 800-783-3100

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