



June 17, 2021

GENERAL NEWS

HUD Charges New York Landlord with Disability Discrimination

In a [press release](#) yesterday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) announced that it is [charging](#) a landlord in Niagara Falls, New York, with discrimination on the basis of disability. HUD's charge alleges that the housing provider violated the [Fair Housing Act](#) by denying a tenant's reasonable accommodation request to keep an assistance animal and retaliating against the tenant by evicting her.

According to the charge, the owner of an apartment complex refused to allow a woman with mental health disabilities to keep an assistance animal, even though she provided him with a physician's letter attesting to her need for the accommodation. The charge further alleges that the owner refused to allow the woman to live with the animal and subsequently evicted her, claiming that the dog had displayed aggressive behavior and was not a legitimate assistance animal.

Under the Fair Housing Act, it is unlawful to deny or limit housing to persons with disabilities, which includes refusing to make reasonable accommodations in policies or practices. Allowing people with disabilities to have assistance animals that perform work, tasks, or provide disability-related emotional support is considered a reasonable accommodation under the Act. That means that a housing provider who otherwise enforces a "no-pets" policy must waive it for a prospective renter or resident who needs an assistance animal because of a disability.

HUD's charge will be heard by a United States administrative law judge. If the judge finds after a hearing that discrimination has occurred, the judge may award damages to the complainant for losses caused by the discrimination. The judge may also order injunctive relief and other equitable relief, as well as payment of attorney fees. In addition, the judge may impose civil penalties to vindicate the public interest.

HUD Announces Latest in ConnectHome Webinar Series

HUD has announced that it will be hosting the latest in its series of [training webinars](#) on the [ConnectHome](#) initiative. The webinar series is meant to serve as guidance to help ConnectHome participating communities achieve their goals in connecting households to broadband and assisting communities in their digital inclusion and digital literacy efforts. As such, the series is relevant for PHA staff and community members responsible for ConnectHome program implementation.

The latest scheduled webinar, titled "[Resources for Overcoming the Summer Slide](#)," will feature representatives from the U.S Department of Education (ED) and Common Sense Media, which will highlight key resources that PHA staff can share with families. ED will share resources to support students in building reading and math skills at home with helpful activities for children of all ages. Common Sense Media will highlight two free platforms, Wide Open School and Tech Balance, which include online and offline learning activities to help parents in your community keep kids learning, engaged, and entertained during the summer.

The webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, June 29, 2021, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Eastern time. Click [here](#) for more information, including [instructions](#) on how to register.

HUD Posts Moving On Webinar Materials

Yesterday on the [HUD Exchange News webpage](#), HUD [announced](#) that it has posted the webinar materials for the last three webinars in its series "Moving On – Spring 2021." The series introduces participants to the tools and resources they need to develop and implement Moving On strategies and programs that help tenants who wish to move on from supportive housing. Materials for the following webinars have been posted:

- [Creating a Culture Supportive of Moving On](#)
- [Moving On Services in Supportive Housing](#)
- [Moving On Outcomes Tracking and Evaluations](#)

Click on each link to access the materials for each session, including recordings of the trainings, transcripts, copies of the slides presented during the webcasts, and other resources.



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