



August 17, 2020

HCV PROGRAM NEWS

HUD Updates COVID-19 FAQs for HCV Landlords

Recently on the [HCV Landlord Resources](#) webpage, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) posted an [updated version](#) of the COVID-19 FAQs for Housing Choice Voucher ([HCV](#)) Landlords. The FAQs, dated July 23, 2020, use the following resources as references:

- [COVID-19 FAQs for Public Housing Agencies, Round 2](#) (dated March 31, 2020)
- [COVID-19 FAQs for Public Housing Agencies, Round 3](#) (dated April 22, 2020)
- [PIH Notice PIH-2020-08](#) (issued April 28, 2020)
- [COVID-19 FAQs for Public Housing Agencies, Round 4](#) (dated May 29, 2020)
- [Notice PIH 2020-13 \(HA\), REV-1](#) (issued July 2, 2020)
- [COVID-19 FAQs for Public Housing Agencies, Round 5](#) (dated July 16, 2020)

The reference used and its corresponding date of issue is listed after each question in the [FAQ document](#).

GENERAL NEWS

DOJ Files Sexual Harassment Suit against New Jersey Housing Provider

In a [press release](#) posted a few days ago, the U.S. Department of Justice ([DOJ](#)) announced that it has filed a lawsuit against the owner of rental properties in New Jersey for subjecting tenants to sexual harassment. [DOJ's complaint](#) alleges that the owner violated the [Fair Housing Act](#) by sexually harassing tenants and housing applicants on multiple occasions since at least 2005.

The Fair Housing Act makes it unlawful for housing providers to sexually harass a tenant, including conditioning housing on the tenant's acquiescence to sexual demands. According to the complaint, the owner demanded sexual favors to get or keep housing, offered housing benefits like reduced rent in exchange for sexual favors, touched tenants and applicants in a way that was sexual and unwelcome, and made unwelcome sexual comments and advances to tenants and applicants. The complaint also alleges that the owner initiated or threatened to initiate eviction actions against tenants who objected to or refused his sexual advances. As stated in the complaint, the owner participates in the federal Housing Choice Voucher program (also known as Section 8) and receives approximately \$102,000 each month in Housing Choice Voucher payments.

The lawsuit, which is the result of a joint investigative effort with HUD's Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Office and Office of Inspector General, seeks monetary damages to compensate the victims, civil penalties to vindicate the public interest, and a court order barring future discrimination. The complaint contains allegations of unlawful conduct, which must be proven in court.

In October 2017, the DOJ's Civil Rights Division [announced](#) the [Sexual Harassment in Housing Initiative](#). The initiative specifically seeks to increase the Department's efforts to protect individuals from harassment by landlords, property managers, maintenance workers, security guards, and other employees and representatives of rental property owners. Since launching the Initiative, the Department has filed 17 lawsuits alleging sexual harassment in housing. The Attorney General recently [reaffirmed this commitment](#) by directing the Justice Department to deploy all available enforcement tools against anyone who tries to capitalize on the COVID-19 crisis by sexually harassing people in need of housing.



For help with your PIH Alert subscription, email [Laurie Durrett](#). For questions and comments on content, email [Olga Vélez](#). To view or post job announcements at our website, click [here](#). To view our seminar calendar, click [here](#). To read the NMA blog, click [here](#).



Nan McKay & Associates 1810 Gillespie Way Suite 202 El Cajon CA 92020 United States

You received this email because you are subscribed to PIH Alerts from Nan McKay & Associates .

Update your [email preferences](#) to choose the types of emails you receive.

[Unsubscribe from all future emails](#)