



## Family sues mobile home community for discrimination after assault

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The **Fair Housing Center** (FHC) of Southeastern Michigan is assisting in filing a lawsuit against Swan Creek Mobile Home Community in Ypsilanti Township for discrimination.

Zakara Scott, a 17-year-old African-American, was pushed to the ground and physically assaulted by Amanda Cadreau, a white tenant from that neighborhood on March 5, 2014, according to the complaint. The neighborhood is located at **6988 McKean Road**, Ypsilanti Township.

The FHC received the complaint in April from Zakara's mother Paula Scott where she reported receiving an eviction notice two days after the assault, according to a press release.

Cadreau was thereafter found guilty by a jury of assault and battery against Zakara, according to the lawsuit. According to the lawsuit, "Amanda Cadreau assaulted and battered Plaintiff Zakara Scott as Zakara exited the school bus...the police were called to the scene, and a police report was filed immediately thereafter, listing Zakara Scott as victim of Amanda Cadreau's assault and battery."

Swan Creek requested and received written statements of the incident but only from Amanda Cadreau's family, according to a press release.

"Swan creek treated the African-American victim like the perpetrator and the white perpetrator like the victim, and we are talking about an African-American teenager assaulted by a white adult," said Ann Routt, board president of FHC.

Executive Director of FHC Pamela Kisch said Swan Creek took a statement from the Cadreau family but did not interview the Scott family.

"We think this is people being treated differently based on race," Kisch said. "They waited seven months before they gave the Cadreau family an eviction notice."

According to the lawsuit, the Cadreaus were to vacate on Dec. 2.

Legal Services of South Central Michigan (LSSCM) referred the case to FHC and attorneys were able to stop the

eviction of the Scott family, according to a press release. FHC Cooperating Attorney Steve Tomkowiak assisted LSSCM on the eviction. Kisch said they invited Tomkowiak to take the case to the next level.

On Dec. 19, Tomkowiak filed a suit on behalf of the Scott family in U.S. Federal District Court and LSSCM plan to act as co-counsel, according to a press release. The case is assigned to Presiding Judge Bernard A. Friedman.

"We advised them on how to fight the eviction and preserve the Scotts' right to bring a civil rights case down the line," Kisch said. "The role of Fair Housing Center is to help anyone who thinks they've been evicted of illegal housing discrimination."

Tomkowiak did not want to comment, though he said the trial date has not been set yet.

Swan Creek could not be reached for comment.

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