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Lawsuit: apartment complexes discriminate against families with children

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OWOSSO, MI (WNEM) - The Fair Housing Center of Southeastern Michigan is filing a lawsuit against several apartment complexes, including one in Mid-Michigan, after [it](#) [claims](#) testing showed discrimination against families with children.

The [properties](#) [are](#) all owned, operated, and/or managed by Sudi Hopper and include Kelly Manor Apartments in Owosso, Parkside Apartments in East Lansing and Holt Manor Apartments in Holt.

FHC claims that testers posing as a single parent with a child were told that children were not allowed to live in one-bedroom [apartments](#) [.](#) But FHC said that testers who claimed to be married, but without children, were told that one-bedroom units were available.

The Fair Housing Center has also asked the U.S. Department of Justice to look into the allegations of discrimination at the properties.

WNEM TV5 has contacted [Hopper](#) [,](#) she isn't commenting on the lawsuit without contacting an attorney first.

At Owosso's Kelly Manor Apartments the grounds are kept up and it looks like a pretty nice place to live.

A potential renter went to Kelly Manor Apartments and went to one of the properties. They said they were told the complex didn't [rent](#) [to](#) children.

It's a violation of a person's federal civil rights, denying an [apartment](#) [lease](#) because someone has kids.

Michigan law also states residents can't be discriminated against based on familial status, meaning if they're married or have kids.

The Fair Housing Center of Southeastern Michigan said Kelly Manor and at least two other sister properties across the state refused to rent one bedroom apartments to testers posing as potential tenants with a child.

"I'm really surprised. I have no problems," said Randy Rawlins, resident.

He said the lawsuit comes as a total shock.

"In fact, my one buddy who lives directly above me has two kids. He just moved out to something a little bit bigger. And that was a one bedroom apartment too," Rawlins said.

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