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## No kids allowed, feds allege, as Bloomfield Hills woman accused of housing discrimination



gavel

By [Dave Phillips](#), The Oakland Press

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A Bloomfield Hills woman and corporate entities in the city are being sued by the U.S. Department of Justice over housing discrimination against families with children.

Sudi Hopper is the rental agent for Parkside East Apartments in East Lansing, Holt Manor Apartments in Holt and Kelly Manor Apartments in Owosso. The corporate entities that own those complexes are also based in Bloomfield Hills and are also being sued.

The lawsuit accuses the defendants of refusing to allow children in Parkside East, as well as refusing to allow children in one-bedroom apartments at Holy Manor and Kelly Manor.

Parkside East consists of 41 one-bedroom apartments, while Holt Manor has four apartments that are not single bedroom residences. Seventeen of Kelly Manor's 25 apartments are single-bedroom residences.

"Although housing discrimination against families with children has been illegal under the Fair Housing Act for more than 25 years, too many families still face such discrimination when they look for housing," said Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Vanita Gupta, head of the Civil Rights Division. "The Justice Department will continue its vigorous enforcement of fair housing laws that protect the rights of these families."

The Fair Housing Center of Southeastern Michigan used testers posing as prospective residents to collect information. The testers called the

defendants and spoke with Hopper about renting a one-bedroom apartment.

“The testing revealed that Hopper did not allow single parent households with a minor child to live in a one-bedroom apartment, but did allow households with two adults to rent such an apartment,” a press release states.

One tester asked Hopper, the complaint alleges, if there was anything more to know about the apartment and Hopper responded, no, “as long as you don’t have any kids or animals, because mainly my people are older people so... it’s very quiet.”

“The Fair Housing Act gives parents the right to decide what type of apartment is appropriate for their families,” said U.S. Attorney Barbara L. McQuade of the Eastern District of Michigan.

“It is unlawful for landlords to substitute their judgment for that of a parent, and to turn people away from a one-bedroom apartment simply because they have a child. We hope that this complaint sends a message to landlords and renters that we are prepared to defend the rights of all families to fair treatment in housing.”

The lawsuit seeks a court order prohibiting future discrimination, as well as monetary damages and a civil penalty.

Anyone with information related to the lawsuit is asked to contact the Justice Department at 1-800-896-7743, mailbox 93, or via email at [fairhousing@usdoj.gov](mailto:fairhousing@usdoj.gov).

#### About the Author



Dave Phillips covers courts for The Oakland Press, having earlier covered the police beat. Reach the author at [dave.phillips@oakpress.com](mailto:dave.phillips@oakpress.com) or follow Dave on Twitter: [@ByDavePhillips](https://twitter.com/ByDavePhillips).

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