

Lawsuit over support dogs filed against Brighton apartment management firm settled

Jennifer Timar, Livingston Daily Published 8:00 a.m. ET March 28, 2020 | Updated 8:14 a.m. ET March 30, 2020

Scott Lorms has settled a federal lawsuit he filed against a Brighton-based apartment management company.

Lorms [claimed in a 2018 federal lawsuit](/story/news/local/community/livingston-county/2019/08/22/lawsuit-emotional-support-dogs-brighton-federal-fair-housing-act/2062953001/) that T&R Properties and Zahler Management declined to rent him an apartment in Pinckney because the companies do not allow dogs.

He has two dogs trained as emotional support animals that he uses to cope with a mental and emotional disability.

Emotional support dogs are not considered pets under the federal Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988.

Lorms said he was still denied a rental application.

The amount of the settlement was not disclosed.

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A T&R Properties representative declined a request for comment Thursday.

The suit alleged Lorms rights under the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 were violated. Amending the Civil Rights Act of 1968, the federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in housing sales, rentals or financing.

"Lorms alleged that after he explained to the agent that he had emotional support dogs – which are not considered pets under the Fair Housing Act – the rental agent ended the call because the company had a 'No dogs allowed policy'," the Fair Housing Center of Southeast & Mid Michigan stated in a release.

Lorms filed a complaint with the Michigan-based civil rights law firm.

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"Because they were denied housing, Mr. Lorms and his family had to rent more expensive housing that was much further away from his work, friends, and family," according to the release.

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