



DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT & HOUSING

DIRECTOR KEVIN KISH

2218 Kausen Drive | Suite 100 | Elk Grove | CA 95758-7115
(916) 478-7251 | TTY (800) 700-2320 | Fax (916) 478-7329
www.dfeh.ca.gov

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Contact: Annmarie Billotti
(916) 478-7247
Annmarie.billotti@dfeh.ca.gov

DFEH OBTAINS TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER TO HALT EVICTION OF FAMILY DURING DISCRIMINATION INVESTIGATION

Landlords sought to evict Grover Beach family after they complained of discrimination

SACRAMENTO - The California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) has obtained a temporary restraining order to halt the eviction and harassment of a family that filed a discrimination complaint with DFEH against a Grover Beach apartment complex.

The landlords served a low-income mother and her three children with a lease termination notice a month after they formally complained to DFEH about a policy prohibiting minors from being in any common area of the complex without adult supervision. Courts have found that such broad policies discriminate against families with children. The family alleges it has suffered ongoing harassment about children being in common areas.

After the landlords initiated eviction proceedings, the DFEH intervened to halt the eviction until the investigation into the discrimination allegations can be completed. The DFEH has statutory power to halt an eviction or seek other injunctive relief when it finds probable cause to believe that the allegations in a discrimination complaint are true and violate the Fair Employment and Housing Act.

“It is illegal for landlords to evict, harass, threaten, or otherwise retaliate against tenants who make allegations of discrimination,” said DFEH Director Kevin Kish. “We will not hesitate to take immediate legal action to prevent retaliation and protect the integrity of our investigations when violations warrant it.”

The temporary restraining order was issued by the San Luis Obispo County Superior Court.

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The DFEH is the state agency charged with enforcing California’s civil rights laws. The mission of the DFEH is to protect the people of California from unlawful discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations and from hate violence.

If you believe you have been discriminated against, you may file a discrimination complaint with the DFEH.

- Use the Department's online system at www.dfeh.ca.gov.
- Call the Communication Center at 800-884-1684 (voice) or email contact.center@dfeh.ca.gov. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, please call 800-884-1684 (through California’s Relay Service by dialing 711) or 800-700-2320 (TTY) or email us at contact.center@dfeh.ca.gov.