

**DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT & HOUSING**

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DFEH Settles Sexual Harassment Case Against Marin County Landlord

Former tenant to receive \$75,000 after owner sexually harassed and then evicted her after she obtained restraining order

Sacramento – The California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) has reached a settlement in a housing discrimination case involving a tenant who alleged a homeowner who rented her a room in his house sexually harassed her and then evicted her after she filed a police report against him.

In June 2018, the complainant filed complaints for housing discrimination and violations of the Unruh Civil Rights Act, alleging that the owner of a residential house in which she rented a downstairs room sexually harassed her over the course of a year and a half including kissing her on the mouth, grabbing her buttocks, and exposing himself to her. The complainant alleged the owner became increasingly hostile after she rejected his advances. No longer feeling safe in her home and also noticing that some of her belongings had disappeared, the complainant filed a police report and sought a restraining order against the respondent, which the court granted. Immediately following service of the restraining order, the homeowner served the complainant with a 30-day eviction notice.

The parties engaged in voluntary pre-investigation mediation in the DFEH's Dispute Resolution Division, resulting in a settlement in which the owner will pay the complainant \$75,000.

"Landlords who sexually harass and retaliate against tenants who resist their advances can expect to be held accountable," said DFEH Director Kevin Kish.

In addition to a monetary settlement, the owners will undergo fair housing training that addresses sexual harassment prevention and retaliation.

DFEH Attorney Mediator, Yu-Yee Wu, mediated the case.

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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 and human trafficking. For more information, visit the DFEH's web site at www.dfeh.ca.gov.

