

Commission on Human Rights

KY Human Rights Commission rules on discrimination complaints at August 2014 meeting

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Louisville, Kentucky USA – The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights Board of Commissioners met on August 21 to rule on discrimination complaints for the people of Kentucky. The meeting was held at commission headquarters in downtown Louisville, Ky.

The commission ruled to approve one conciliation agreement; it approved 13 case withdrawals that the agency helped resolve with private settlements. It approved two case withdrawals, giving complainants the right to file private suits. The board ruled to dismiss 22 complaints with findings of no probable cause to evidence that discrimination occurred and dismissed three complaints without prejudice. Since the last commission meeting in June, the agency successfully resolved three complaints with private mediations.

Conciliation agreements are similar to settlement agreements and are negotiated by commission representatives. Respondents participating in the agreements deny any allegations of unlawful discrimination and violations of civil rights law. Following is a summary of the conciliation agreement approved at the meeting:

Sheba Hall v. Horizon Place Ltd., Homeland Inc., Kathy Haynes, property manager, and Audubon Area Community Services Inc., in Owensboro, Ky.: Sheba Hall complained to the commission on March 20, 2014, that she was discriminated against by the landlords where she lived based on disability in the area of housing. This would be a violation of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act (Kentucky Revised Statutes Chapter 344) and the U.S. Fair Housing Act. Hall claimed she was subjected to a hostile living environment at the property she was renting at 2220 E. 19th St., in Owensboro, and that she was evicted because of a disability that requires the use of a wheelchair. The respondents asserted that she misused the wheelchair, which she denied. The respondents denied any violation of the law. Before the commission investigation was complete, it assisted the parties in reaching a conciliation agreement to fully resolve the complaint. The respondents agreed to compensate Hall in the amount of \$5,529, to undergo fair housing compliance training, and to submit to commission compliance monitoring.

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights is the state government authority that enforces the Kentucky Civil Rights Act, and through its affiliations with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), enforces the United States Civil Rights Act.

The Kentucky Civil Rights Act makes it illegal to discriminate against people in the areas of employment, financial transactions, housing and public accommodations. Discrimination is prohibited based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender, and disability. In employment, discrimination is further prohibited on the basis of age (40-years and over) and tobacco-smoking status. In housing, discrimination is further prohibited based on familial status, which protects people with children in the household under the age of 18-years old and protects women who are pregnant.

For more information, contact the commission at 1.800.292.5566. For details about civil rights and commission activities, visit the website at kchr.ky.gov. For news about civil rights and information pertaining to protected classes, visit the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights Facebook and Twitter sites.