



Commonwealth of Kentucky

## Kentucky Commission on Human Rights

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Press Release

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For help with discrimination, contact commission headquarters: 1.800.292.5566

### **Kentucky Commission on Human Rights Discrimination Complaint Rulings for November 2016**

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights Board of Commissioners at its regular meeting on Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016, ruled on discrimination complaints for the people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The public meeting was held at commission headquarters in Louisville, Ky.

The commission ruled to approve one conciliation agreement. Such agreements are similar to settlements and are negotiated by commission officials. Six cases were withdrawn to be resolved through private settlements. The commission approved five withdrawals giving complainants the right to file private suits. The commission dismissed 20 complaints with findings of no probable cause to evidence discrimination may have occurred. One case was resolved through private mediation conducted by the commission with respondent and complainant.

The following conciliation agreement was approved at the meeting:

Laura Ashley Thornton v. BWIP Pinebrook Owner LLC, APM Management, and Hunter Warfield, in Lexington, Ky.: In April 2016, Laura Thornton alleged to the commission that her then landlord BWIP Pinebrook Owner et al. discriminated against her based on the protected class of sex (female domestic violence) 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. Thornton claimed the landlords refused to cancel her lease to prevent her from having to pay penalty fees as she had to relocate based on the protected class of sex (domestic violence). The allegations were withdrawn from APM and Warfield because BWIP Pinebrook immediately sought to resolve the matter through conciliation with the complainant and the commission. BWIP waived and canceled the lease penalty it had charged and ceased collection action. The company will submit to fair housing compliance monitoring by the commission. The conciliation agreement does not constitute an admission of liability or wrongdoing, including but not limited to, any violation of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act, KRS Chapter 344 et. seq. or

Federal Fair Housing act as amended, 42 USC 3601 et seq., all of which are specifically denied. The parties acknowledge that the conciliation is a compromise of disputed claims.

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights is the state government authority that enforces the Kentucky Civil Rights Act (Kentucky Revised Statutes Chapter 344), and, through its affiliations with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, enforces federal civil rights laws. The Kentucky Civil Rights Act makes it unlawful to discriminate against people in the areas of employment, financial transactions, housing and public accommodations. Discrimination is prohibited in the aforementioned areas 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 on the basis of 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 it protects women who are pregnant. It is also a violation of the law to retaliate against a person for complaining of discrimination to the commission.

For help with discrimination or ask the commission to file a discrimination complaint, contact the commission at 800.292.5566. For information about the commission and civil rights, visit the website at [www.kchr.ky.gov](http://www.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. Directly link to the sites from the commission website address listed above.