



Sisters Settle Familial Status Complaint Against Apartment Complex

Fond du Lac, WI – Sisters Ashley and Nicole Zimpher have successfully resolved fair housing complaints against apartment owners Grand Street Enterprises, James Clark and Karey Amon, who own and manage an apartment building 55 4th Street in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. The respondents will pay a total of \$1500 to the Zimphers and issue a letter of apology to them. In addition, they will participate in mandatory fair housing training, will use the equal housing opportunity logo on all advertising and on informational brochures provided to new and potential residents.

The Zimphers' complaints stemmed from an interaction between Nicole Zimpher and James Clark in May 2011. Ashley Zimpher was seeking housing for herself, her boyfriend and her son, and Nicole Zimpher was assisting her in the search. After seeing an advertisement in a local newspaper for a two-bedroom "luxury" apartment, Nicole Zimpher called to inquire about the unit. Clark asked who would live there, and Nicole Zimpher explained that the prospective tenants were her sister, her sister's boyfriend and their son. Clark asked the age of their child, and Nicole Zimpher said he was four years old. Clark told her that he'd never rented to children because it was a luxury apartment.

The Zimphers filed complaints with MMFHC, and MMFHC counseled them on their fair housing rights and options for remedy. With MMFHC's assistance, both women filed complaints with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Wisconsin Equal Rights Division (ERD) in November 2011, alleging that the respondents had discriminated against the Zimphers based on familial status. Both federal and state fair housing laws prohibit discrimination based on the presence of minor children in a household. The parties reached a settlement through HUD in May 2012.