



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – AUGUST 29, 2019

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**FHCCI RESOLVES COMPLAINTS TO ENSURE HOUSING OPTIONS
FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN**

INDIANAPOLIS – Today, the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) announces the resolution of two fair housing complaints which will ensure fair housing opportunities for families with children.

First, the FHCCI announces, in partnership with HOPE Fair Housing Center and an Illinois woman with three children, the resolution of a complaint filed against Marquette Management. In the complaint filed with the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) in January 2018, the parties alleged that Marquette had engaged in systemic discrimination against families with children across properties in Indiana and Illinois by enforcing an occupancy policy of no more than two people per bedroom in each apartment, regardless of the unit's square footage or whether that unit has a den, office, loft, or other feature that could provide an additional bedroom or living area for a child.

In May 2019, the parties reached a settlement in which Marquette Management agreed: to pay \$60,000 for the complainants' costs and damages, to change their occupancy policy so that the policy is no more restrictive than the applicable local occupancy code, and to train their employees and agents on fair housing laws and responsibilities, along with other terms to ensure compliance with fair housing laws.

In the second resolution, the FHCCI announces in partnership with the Fair Housing Center of Southeast and Mid Michigan, the resolution of a complaint filed against Management Resources Development, Inc. (MRD). This complaint was filed with HUD in March 2018 and alleged that MRD had engaged in systemic discrimination against families with children across properties in Indiana and Michigan by enforcing an occupancy policy of no more than two people per bedroom in each apartment, regardless of the unit's square footage or whether that unit has a den, office, loft, or other feature that could provide an additional bedroom or living area for a child.

In June 2019, the parties reached a settlement in which MRD agreed: to pay \$45,000 for the complainant's costs and damages, to change their occupancy policy so that the policy is no more restrictive than the applicable local occupancy code, and to train their employees and agents on fair housing laws and responsibilities, along with other terms to ensure compliance with fair housing laws.

In both complaints, HUD did not make a determination as to the validity of the allegations and the respondents denied the allegations and admitted no wrongdoing, but agreed to settle the claims by entering into Conciliation Agreements with HUD and the private fair housing groups.

“Families with children need equal access to quality housing in a variety of locations. By agreeing to do away with its strict 2-person per bedroom rule, these companies have recognized the important role they play in providing that access,” said Amy Nelson, Executive Director of the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana.

The complainants were represented in these enforcement actions by Jia Cobb of Relman, Dane & Colfax.

To learn more, a copy of this press release and the filed complaints can be found on the [FHCCI's News Page](#) and/or [Advocacy Page](#). Parties interested in learning more about fair housing rights for families with children should review the [FHCCI's Families with Children Education Page](#).

The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) is a private, nonprofit fair housing organization founded in 2011 and based in Indianapolis, Indiana. Its mission is to ensure equal housing opportunities by eliminating housing discrimination through advocacy, enforcement, education and outreach. More information on the FHCCI at: www.fhcci.org

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