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FAIR HOUSING COMPLAINT FILED ALLEGING FAMILIAL STATUS DISCRIMINATION

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Today, the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI), along with a former Hoosier family, announces a federal lawsuit against LaPorte Lake Properties LLC and Coolspring Estates Apartments in Michigan City, Indiana, alleging violations of fair housing and other laws against families with children.

"Those with children face added barriers in locating housing that will rent to them with their child or children. A <u>recent report</u> by the National Fair Housing Alliance found that 11.15% of the filed complaints with HUD involved discrimination against families with children," stated Amy Nelson, Executive Director of the FHCCI.

The complaint alleges that defendant, LaPorte Lake Properties, and its property, Coolspring Estates Apartments, engaged in housing discrimination against families with children through an overly restrictive occupancy standard regardless of the size of the bedroom, local occupancy code, or HUD issued guidance.

"Unfortunately, Indiana housing providers still are not aware of their responsibilities under fair housing laws and continue to deny Hoosier families the right to safe, affordable housing that meets their needs," said Brady Ripperger, Director, Fair Housing Programs at the FHCCI. "This still occurs despite the federal Fair Housing Act being amended in 1988 to include protections due to familial status."

The plaintiffs are represented by Judith Fox of the University of Notre Dame Clinical Law Center and Stephen Dane of Dane Law LLC. A copy of the filed complaint can be found on the <u>FHCCI's Advocacy Page</u> or its <u>News Page</u>.

The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) is a private, non-profit 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. For more information, visit: www.fhcci.org

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