



5 Things You Should Know About Protections from Sexual Harassment in Housing Under New Jersey Law

- 1 The New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (LAD) prohibits sexual harassment**, a form of gender-based discrimination, in housing. This means that you have the right to be free from sexual harassment no matter where you live (including in public housing, a private apartment, or a condo) or how you pay your rent (such as if you rely on rental assistance vouchers).
- 2 Sexual harassment can include verbal harassment**, such as obscene language or demeaning comments; physical harassment, such as unwanted touching; or visual harassment, such as displaying pornographic images, cartoons, or drawings.
- 3 There are two types of unlawful sexual harassment:** “quid pro quo” and hostile environment. Quid pro quo harassment occurs when a benefit is conditioned on sexual favors, or when an adverse action is threatened if you refuse a sexual advance. One example is a building manager demanding sex or sexual favors as a condition of making repairs to your unit. A hostile environment exists when a tenant is subjected to severe or pervasive sexual harassment that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive housing environment. That includes, for example, a landlord repeatedly making sexually suggestive comments about your body or clothing.
- 4 A housing provider must take action to stop such harassment** if it knows or should have known about it. That is true regardless of whether the harassment is perpetrated by a housing provider’s employees or agents, real estate brokers, or in some circumstances, fellow tenants.
- 5 A housing provider may not retaliate against you** for objecting to sexual harassment, filing a sexual harassment complaint, or for exercising or attempting to exercise any other rights under the law. That means, for example, that your housing provider may not evict you or threaten to refer you to immigration authorities for reporting sexual harassment.

To find out more or to file a complaint, go to [NJCivilRights.gov](https://www.njcivilrights.gov) or call **1.833.NJDCR4U**



NJ Office of the Attorney General
[NJCivilRights.gov](https://www.njcivilrights.gov)



**DIVISION ON
NJ CIVIL RIGHTS**
@CivilRightsNJ #CivilRightsNJ #StandUpAgainstHate



02/24/21