

Highwood

Highwood landlord to pay \$7,500 in rental discrimination case

http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-highwood-housing-settle_13_baug13,0,5784788.story?track=rss

Tribune staff report

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A Highwood couple has agreed to pay a \$7,500 legal settlement after being charged with discriminating against a single mother who wanted to rent a one-bedroom apartment they own, the Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs announced Tuesday.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development accused Martin and Mary Giarelli of violating the Fair Housing Act after they told the woman in January 2007 that they would not rent her a one-bedroom unit because she had a child, according to a news release.

"Discrimination against families with children remains a serious problem in the northern suburbs," Gail Schechter, executive director of Interfaith, said in a statement.

The nonprofit agency sent undercover testers to the apartment posing as single mothers who wanted to rent the room. They also were rejected after being told that the unit was too small for two people.

Testers posing as married couples with no children were not turned away.

The Giarellis will pay \$7,500 to Interfaith, whose staff will train the couple on housing laws, agency officials said.

Efforts to reach the Giarellis for comment Tuesday were unsuccessful.