

PREDETERMINATION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

CP# 04-22-78136
HUD# 07-22-9513-8

PARTIES TO THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

RESPONDENTS

NORTHWEST IOWA REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY
2016 Highway Boulevard
Spencer, IA 51301

STACI JENSEN
2016 Highway Boulevard
Spencer, IA 51301

SARAH DIEKMANN
2016 Highway Boulevard
Spencer, IA 51301

COMPLAINANT

ASHLEY CLARK
612 East 19th St, Apt 5
Spencer, IA 51301

and

IOWA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
400 East 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Description of the Parties: Complainant identifies her race as Black. Complainant alleges she was subjected to discriminatory terms and conditions due to her race. Respondents are a public housing authority and its employees, responsible for administering a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Terms of Settlement: A complaint having been filed by Complainant against Respondents with the Commission under Iowa Code Chapter 216 and there having been a preliminary inquiry, the parties do hereby agree to settle the above-captioned matter in the following extent and manner:

Acknowledgment of Fair Housing Laws

While Respondents deny the allegations of discrimination, Respondents acknowledge applicable fair housing laws, including the following:

1. Respondents Northwest Iowa Regional Housing Authority, Staci Jensen, and Sarah Diekmann agree there shall be no discrimination, harassment, or retaliation of any kind against Complainants or any other person for filing a charge under the “Iowa Civil Rights Act of 1965” (ICRA); or because of giving testimony or assistance, or participating in any manner in any investigation, proceeding or hearing under the ICRA; or because of lawful opposition to any practice forbidden by the ICRA. Iowa Code § 216.11(2).
2. Respondents Northwest Iowa Regional Housing Authority, Staci Jensen, and Sarah Diekmann acknowledge the ICRA makes it unlawful to discriminate in the terms, conditions or privileges of sale or rental of a dwelling or in the provision of services or facilities in connection with the dwelling because of race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion, disability, or familial status. Iowa Code § 216.8(1) (b).
3. Respondents Northwest Iowa Regional Housing Authority, Staci Jensen, and Sarah Diekmann acknowledge that the Federal Fair Housing Act, as amended, makes it unlawful to discriminate in the terms, conditions or privileges of sale or rental of a dwelling, or in the provision of services or facilities in connection therewith, because of the person’s race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, national origin, or disability. 42 U.S.C. 3604(b), 3604(f) (2) (§ 804 of the Fair Housing Act).

Voluntary and Full Settlement

4. The parties acknowledge this Predetermination Settlement Agreement is a voluntary and full settlement of the disputed complaint. The parties affirm they have read and fully understand the terms set forth herein. No party has been coerced, intimidated, threatened or in any way forced to become a party to this Agreement.
5. The parties enter into this Agreement in a good faith effort to amicably resolve existing disputes. The execution of this Agreement is not an admission of any wrongdoing or violation of law. The parties agree that this Agreement is executed as a compromised settlement, liability for which is expressly denied by the parties released, and the payment of the sum indicated herein does not constitute an admission of liability on the part of any person or entity. Nor is the execution of this Agreement an admission by Complainant that any claims asserted in their complaint are not fully meritorious.
6. The parties agree the execution of this Agreement may be accomplished by separate counterpart executions of this Agreement. The parties agree the original executed signature pages will be attached to the body of this Agreement to constitute one document.
7. Respondents Northwest Iowa Regional Housing Authority, Staci Jensen, and Sarah Diekmann agree the Commission may review compliance with this Agreement. And as part of such review, Respondent agrees the Commission may examine witnesses, collect documents, or require written reports, all of which will be conducted in a reasonable manner by the Commission.

Disclosure

8. Because, pursuant to Iowa Code § 216.15A(2)(d), the Commission has not determined that disclosure is not necessary to further the purposes of the ICRA relating to unfair or discriminatory practices in housing or real estate, this Agreement is a public record and subject to public disclosure in accordance with Iowa's Public Records Law, Iowa Code Chapter 22. See Iowa Code § 22.13.

Release

9. Complainant hereby waives, releases, acquits, forever discharges and covenants not to sue Respondents with respect to any matters which were, or might have been alleged as charges filed with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Department of Housing and Urban Development, or any other anti-discrimination agency, as of the date of execution of this Agreement, subject to performance by Respondents of the promises and representations contained herein. Complainant agrees any complaint filed with any other anti-discrimination agency, including the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Department of Housing and Urban Development, which involves the issues in this complaint, shall be closed as Satisfactorily Adjusted.

Fair Housing Training

10. Respondent Northwest Iowa Regional Housing Authority will require training on the requirements of State and Federal Fair Housing Laws for Staci Jensen and Sarah Diekmann within 90 days of their receipt of a Closing Letter from the Commission. The training shall be conducted by a qualified person, approved by the Commission or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Relief for Complainant

11. Respondent Northwest Iowa Regional Housing Authority agrees to pay Complainant \$250.00 via Settlement Check within fourteen (14) days of the date of the Closure Letter. The Settlement Check will be mailed to Complainant at 612 East 19th St, Apt 5, Spencer, IA 51301. Respondent affirms that the settlement amount will not impact Complainant's eligibility for her voucher application.

Respondent Northwest Iowa Regional Housing Authority agrees to process Complainant's Housing Choice Voucher application in a manner consistent with HUD regulations and its Administrative Plan and will not reject or deny Complainant's application or refuse to issue a housing choice voucher unless required by said regulations and rules.

Reporting and Record-Keeping

12. Respondents Northwest Iowa Regional Housing Authority, Staci Jensen, and Sarah Diekmann shall forward to the Commission objective evidence of the successful completion of fair housing training in the form of a Certificate or a letter from the entity conducting the training or signed sworn statement from Respondent stating the time and location of their

training and the entity that conducted the training, as evidence of compliance with Term 10 of this Agreement within ten (10) days of the completion of the training.

All required documentation of compliance must be submitted via email or U.S. Mail to:

Amy Quail
Iowa Civil Rights Commission
Grimes State Office Building
400 East 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Amy.quail@iowa.gov
Telephone: 515-725-1082

NORTHWEST IOWA REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY,
RESPONDENT
Date

STACI JENSEN, RESPONDENT
Date

SARAH DIEKMANN, RESPONDENT
Date

ASHLEY CLARK, COMPLAINANT
Date

STAN THOMPSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
IOWA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
Date