



2840 Liberty Avenue, Suite 205, Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Office: (412) 391-2535 • Fax: (412) 391-2647 • www.pittsburghfairhousing.org

The Fair Housing Partnership (FHP) of Greater Pittsburgh is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.
Our mission is to create, promote, and support equal housing choice and opportunity in our community.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Fair Housing Partnership reaches settlement with Mozart Management in housing discrimination case

PENNSYLVANIA – The Fair Housing Partnership of Greater Pittsburgh (FHP) has reached a settlement agreement with Mozart Management involving a Fair Housing complaint of discrimination against people with disabilities by limiting access to emotional support animals.

In November 2018, a previous tenant requested a reasonable accommodation to postpone her unit being shown to prospective tenants and for notice prior to Mozart Management entering her unit. Additionally, the previous tenant requested a reasonable accommodation for an emotional support cat due to her disability. Upon request, Mozart Management sent the previous tenant reasonable accommodation forms requiring that her emotional support cat be neutered, kept in a cage or closet when away from home, declawed if needed as well as subjected to height and weight inspections.

Under the Fair Housing Act, a person with disabilities has a right to an emotional support animal and cannot be denied housing for having one. By imposing various restrictions on the emotional support cat's whereabouts and requiring physical alterations, these policies severely limit a person's access to an emotional support animal. FHP believes these policies create additional barriers for people with disabilities who have emotional support animals and prevents the enjoyment of their dwelling.

FHP and Mozart Management have agreed to change the reasonable accommodation policy of Mozart Management regarding people with disabilities. To further their fair housing knowledge, Mozart Management agreed to fair housing trainings and establishing a Fair Housing Coordinator to serve as a point of contacts for requests. Mozart Management also agreed to a financial settlement. This agreement will create greater access to housing for people with disabilities.

Media Contacts:
Raymond Moore, Fair Housing Partnership, 412-391-2535, ray@fhp.org

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Founded in 1984, The Fair Housing Partnership is a full-service fair housing agency dedicated to ensuring equal housing choice through education, fair housing analysis, enforcement, outreach and community organizing in western Pennsylvania.

