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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.

**Fair Housing Acknowledgement and Apology, by a Former Penn Hills Landlord**

By Edward L. and Donna L. Rochez, Penn Hills, Pittsburgh, PA 15235,  
To the Fair Housing partnership of Greater Pittsburgh

Dear Fair Housing partnership of Greater Pittsburgh,

In our previous role as a small landlord in Penn Hills, we were not required by the Pennsylvania Landlord and Tenant Act to learn about the federal Fair Housing Act or state and local fair housing laws. In our ignorance, we chose to exclude families with children from our rental property. Certainly, ignorance of the law is no excuse. We were sued for violating the fair housing laws, and we learned from our mistake.

We implore other landlords in Pennsylvania, large and small, to also learn from our mistake, by proactively learning about their obligations under our fair housing laws.

We sincerely apologize for our actions in this case. We now recognize that denying housing opportunities to families with children is very common in our communities, and this is why the Fair Housing Act was amended in 1988, to make sure that families with children or who are pregnant are not denied housing because of the presence of the child in the household.

We also want to apologize to the Fair Housing Partnership, which works to protect families in western PA from housing discrimination.

We are committed that all Pennsylvania landlords comply with fair housing laws. We sincerely hope that they can learn from our unfortunate example, by ensuring that no person is denied housing because they have children, or for any other unlawful reason.

*Sincerely,*

*Edward and Donna Rochez, Former Landlords, Penn Hills, Pittsburgh, PA 15235*

*Edward L. Rochez, Donna L. Rochez*