PROCEDURE REFERENCE :RD Instruction 2000-GGG

PURPOSE :Used to notify complainants that the allegations have been forwarded to HUD for handling under the authority of the Fair Housing Act

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Development
Civil Rights Staff - Stop 0703
Washington, D.C. 20250-0703

NOTIFICATION OF REFERRAL TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

Certified Mail
Return Receipt Requested

Dear Complainant:

We received your recent correspondence regarding an allegation of discrimination. A copy of your complaint has been referred to HUD and it will be reviewed by both the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and HUD for investigation.

HUD is responsible for investigating and enforcing Fair Housing Act violations. The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, and disability in the sale, rental, or advertising of dwellings, in the provision of brokerage services, or in the availability of residential real estate-related transactions.

Following a finding by HUD that it has reasonable cause to believe that housing discrimination occurred, you (or the respondent) may elect to have the complaint heard in U.S. District Court, otherwise the complaint will be adjudicated before an administrative law judge ("ALJ"). If you go to court, your cause will be represented by the Department of Justice, or if you go before an ALJ, your cause will be represented by HUD fair housing attorneys.

The address and telephone number of the HUD office responsible for investigating your complaint is:

USDA is responsible for investigating and enforcing other civil rights laws other than the Fair Housing Act. USDA's preliminary determination is that your complaint should be (handled solely by HUD **or** investigated by both agencies).

USDA and HUD will share copies of correspondence, summaries from interviews, investigative reports, and other related information during the processing of your complaint.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Director
Civil Rights Staff