



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

civilrights.justice.gov

Combating Sexual Misconduct

The Civil Rights Division is committed to protecting people from sexual misconduct. Sexual misconduct includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sex-based violence. The Division enforces criminal and civil federal civil rights laws that vindicate the rights of survivors and hold perpetrators accountable.

By the numbers:

Data from Fiscal Year 2024

- **Approximately \$10.3 million** secured for victims & survivors
- **Approximately \$164,000** paid in civil penalties
- **9** civil complaints filed
- **19** civil cases in active litigation
- **56** criminal indictments
- **134** criminal convictions
- **Over 300** people trained through **8** training programs

Federal Civil Rights Protections



HOUSING: You are protected from sexual misconduct in the rental, sale, or financing of housing ([Fair Housing Act](#) and the [Equal Credit Opportunity Act](#)).



EDUCATION: You are protected from sexual misconduct in education programs and activities ([Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972](#) and [Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#)).



EMPLOYMENT: You are protected from sexual misconduct in the workplace and application process, and at offsite functions or on official business ([Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#) and [18 U.S.C. § 1589](#)).



CRIMINAL JUSTICE: You are protected from sexual misconduct in day-to-day activities, as well as during arrests and in correctional facilities ([Human Trafficking Statutes](#); [Hate Crimes](#); [18 U.S.C. § 242](#); [Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act](#); [Violent Crime Control & Law Enforcement Act of 1994](#); and the [Safe Streets Act of 1968](#)).



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Recent Sexual Misconduct Cases



The Justice Department investigated a county agency whose former director sexually harassed or assaulted at least 10 female employees and community service workers whom he supervised. The Justice Department **settled** a civil suit with the county, alleging civil rights violations. The county agreed to pay \$1.1 million to the victims and to implement further reforms to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace. The Justice Department also secured the **indictment** of the former director for sexually abusing the women. The former director was **convicted** and **sentenced** to 17 years in prison.



The Justice Department **investigated** a university's years-long failure to respond to reports that a former head athletics coach engaged in sex-based harassment, including sexual assault, of male student-athletes, as well as sex discrimination against female student-athletes. The Justice Department secured an **agreement** that required the university to strengthen its systems for responding to complaints of sex discrimination, provide targeted training on reporting obligations of athletics staff and on reporting options for student-athletes, and pay up to \$4.14 million in financial relief to certain student-athletes.



The Justice Department filed a **lawsuit** alleging that the owner and operator of residential sober homes sexually harassed multiple residents by making unwanted sexual comments and offering to reduce or forgive rent, grant extra house privileges, or waive security deposits in exchange for engaging in sex acts. A federal jury **found** the owner liable for sexual harassment and retaliation in violation of the Fair Housing Act and awarded \$3.8 million in damages to seven identified victims.



The Justice Department recently secured a **sentence** of life in prison against a sex trafficker who recruited victims on false promises of legitimate work and housing assistance, and then compelled them to perform commercial sex acts for the trafficker's profit. The defendant targeted young women and girls struggling with unstable living situations, substance use disorders, abuse, and neglect, and manipulated these vulnerabilities to exert control over them.

Where should victims of sexual misconduct report?

- If you or someone else is in immediate danger, first call 911 or local police.
- To preserve certain rights, you may have to first file a formal complaint with another federal or state agency within certain time limits (e.g., employment claims must be filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or a similar state agency).

To report sexual misconduct to the Civil Rights Division, visit

civilrights.justice.gov.