



Department of Justice

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The Department of Justice filed a civil suit today charging a Tampa, Florida, couple with interfering with U.S. Air Force equal-housing policy by refusing to rent spaces in their trailer park to black airmen.

Attorney General Edward H. Levi said the housing discrimination suit was filed in U.S. District Court in Tampa against William and Herta Strickland, owners of Sunset Bay Mobile Home Park.

The suit charged the Stricklands with violating the Fair Housing Act of 1968 by refusing to accept black tenants in their 93-space park and by interfering with persons assisting blacks to exercise their equal-housing rights.

The suit asked for a court order enjoining the Stricklands from practicing racial discrimination in the operation of their trailer park and requiring them to correct the effects of their alleged discriminatory policies.

The matter was referred to the Justice Department by the housing referral office at MacDill Air Force Base, which is near the trailer park.

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