

Conciliation Agreement

[REDACTED] vs. Midland Holding Corporation and Midland Holding, Inc.
SHAC No. H-4-15-016
HUD No. 04-16-4246-8

for help. The Complainants stated they have had to get rid of some of their things because of water damage and mold. Complainant [REDACTED] stated that they have continued to pay their rent although the Respondent has broken the lease agreement by refusing to service their maintenance requests.

The Complainants allege that Respondent threatened to evict them in retaliation for filing this complaint. The Complainants stated on or about January 29, 2016, Renee Westbrook told them that her boss was upset because the Complainants had reported them to the state and they were not letting them stay another month. The Complainants also stated that the Respondent did not come to collect the rent on the February 1, 2016 like they usually do on the first of each month. The Complainants stated that they had to keep calling the Respondent in order for them to finally pick up the check on February 4, 2016. The Complainants believe that the Respondent purposely delayed picking up the rent in order to make them move for being late with the payment. The Complainants also stated that the Respondent continues to promise to fix the items (mold, water damages, etc.) on their maintenance requests and no repairs are being made.

WHEREAS, the Commission and the parties hereto wish to reach a just resolution of the aforementioned dispute, and reach a full, equitable and final settlement of all matters arising out of the aforementioned complaint.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereby agree and stipulate to the following:

II. GENERAL PROVISIONS

The terms set forth herein are contractual and not merely a recital.

- A. The parties acknowledge that this Agreement is a full settlement of the disputed complaint. The parties hereto state that they have read and fully understand the significance of the terms set forth herein and have executed this compromise Conciliation Agreement freely and voluntarily. No party has been coerced, intimidated, threatened, or in any way forced to become a party to this Agreement.
- B. By signing this Agreement both Complainants and Respondents state that they have had the opportunity to seek legal counsel regarding the effects of this Agreement.
- C. This conciliation agreement fully and completely resolves all issues arising out of SHAC Case # H-4-15-016/HUD Case # 04-16-4246-8 through the effective date of this agreement. The Commission and the Charging Party will take no further legal action with respect to, and will not initiate any action pertaining to, the facts and events which led to the filing of the charge so long as the parties abide by the terms of this Conciliation Agreement.
- D. This Agreement, after it has been approved by the Commissioner of South Carolina Human Affairs Commission (SCHAC), is binding upon all Respondents, their employees, successors and all others in active concert with them in the ownership or operation of Midland Holding Corporation.
- E. It is understood that, pursuant to Section 31-21-120 (D) of the South Carolina Code of Laws Fair Housing Law, upon approval of this Agreement by the Commissioner of SCHAC, it is a public document.

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- F. This Agreement does not in any way limit or restrict SCHAC's authority to investigate any other complaint involving Respondents made pursuant to the Fair Housing Law, or any other law within SCHAC's jurisdiction.
- G. This Conciliation Agreement constitutes closure of the complaint at HUD and South Carolina Human Affairs Commission upon a determination that Complainant(s) and Respondent(s) have complied with the terms of the Agreement.

III. PROVISIONS FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST

In order to assure that the public interest is protected, Respondent, without admitting to any violation of the South Carolina Fair Housing Law or Federal Fair Housing Act, agrees to continue to take such affirmative action as may be necessary to assure the elimination of discriminatory housing practices and the prevention of their occurrence in the future, including, but not limited to the following:

- A. Respondent agrees to continue to comply with all federal and state housing laws.
- B. Respondent agrees to continue to consistently apply its standards for acceptance and rejection of housing applicants in an objective manner.
- C. Respondent agrees to continue to allow any qualified person the right to purchase, rent, or occupy a dwelling regardless of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin.
- D. Respondent and Respondent's employees agree to attend Fair Housing training provided by the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission within six months from the date of the signed agreement.

IV. RELIEF FOR COMPLAINANT

- A. Respondent has agreed to give a \$5,500 lump sum to the Complainant which includes \$1,500 expenses.

V. RELEASE BY COMPLAINANT

- A. Upon compliance with the terms of Paragraph IV through herein, Complainant agrees to release and forever discharge Respondent and Respondent's employees, agents, successors, insurers, and assigns from any and all claims arising out of its rental of and/or resident in its rental unit which may be raised on account of the matters raised herein.

VI. BREACH OF CONCILIATED TERMS

- A. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to preclude the Commission and/or any aggrieved individual(s) from bringing suit to enforce this Agreement in the event that Respondent fails to perform the promises and representations contained herein. Neither does it preclude the Commission from filing charges in the future concerning events occurring after the execution of this conciliation agreement. The Commission shall determine whether Respondent has complied with the terms of this agreement. In the event that the Commission determines that Respondent has not complied with the terms hereof, the Commission shall send written notice to Respondent and Respondent shall be given a reasonable time period to remedy such non-compliance.

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B. Complainant(s) and Respondent(s) agree that this Agreement may be used as evidence in a subsequent proceeding in which any of the parties allege a breach of this Agreement.

VII. REPORTING & RECORDKEEPING

Parties shall submit proof of compliance with the terms of this Agreement to:

South Carolina Human Affairs Commission
Fair Housing Division
Attention: Deborah Thomas
1026 Sumter Street, Suite 101
Columbia, SC 29201

The submitter of any documentation should include the SHAC and HUD case numbers, which are as follows:

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VIII. COMMISSION REVIEW

A. Subject to the provisions of Section 814 of the Fair Housing Act, as amended, 42 U. S. C. Section 3614, and in accordance with the provisions of State Regulations R. 65-225.G., the Commission may, from time to time, review compliance with this Conciliation Agreement, and, if necessary, recommend to the South Carolina Attorney General that a civil action be filed to seek the enforcement of any of the terms set forth herein.

IX. EFFECTIVE DATE

This agreement shall become effective on the date on which it is approved and signed by the Commissioner of the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have subscribed their names hereto on the day and date indicated.

 4/20/16
(Date)

 4/20/16
(Date)


Midland Holding Corporation 4/20/16
(Date)


Midland Holding Company 4/20/16
(Date)

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[Redacted]

4/20/2016
(Date)

Approved on Behalf of the Commission

Raymond Buxton II
Raymond Buxton II, Commissioner

4-20-16
(Date)