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Fargo housing corporations face civil suit

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FARGO

Two Fargo-based corporations that own several apartment complexes in the Fargo-Moorhead area are accused of violating the federal Fair Housing Act.

The complaint says Van Raden Properties Inc. and Van Raden Homes Inc. discriminated against a man with a service dog by denying him an apartment in early 2007.

The United States filed the civil lawsuit on behalf of Fair Housing of the Dakotas, a private nonprofit. The lawsuit seeks more than \$32,000 in penalties and damages.

Federal prosecutors declined to comment on the case. A man who answered the phone at Van Raden Properties' Fargo office also declined comment.