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## Council Bluffs apartment company to pay \$147K after discriminating against gay couple

An apartment complex's management company will have to pay \$147,000 to two gay men after a Council Bluffs jury found that the couple had been discriminated against by an on-site maintenance man and others who failed to stop his harassment.

Jurors awarded \$22,000 in economic damages to Charles Anderson and Brandon Morehead, plus \$50,000 for emotional distress and \$75,000 in punitive damages, according to a news release issued by the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, which brought filed a lawsuit on the couple's behalf.

According to the commission, jurors heard testimony that maintenance technician Allen Emert launched repeated harassment and name-calling of the defendants after he learned in March 2011 that they were sharing a one-bedroom apartment. Two of Emmert's supervisors at New Life Multi-Family Management LLC failed to stop the daily epithets, which included, among other things, references to the men being "queer" and "pillow biters."

The four-day jury trial ended in a finding that New Life had discriminated against Anderson and Morehead based on their sexual orientation.

"As the jury in this case determined, there is no place in the state of Iowa for such outrageous and illegal activity and failure to stop such behavior can result in serious penalties to responsible parties," Iowa Civil Rights Commission Director Beth Townsend said in the news release. "The Iowa Civil Rights Act and the Fair Housing Act were both written to ensure that Iowans are as free from discrimination and harassment in their housing as they would be in their place of employment."

**Tags:** [Iowa Civil Rights Commission](#), [New Life Multi-Family Management](#)