

City of La Crosse Human Rights Commission Complaint Form

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COMPLAINANT INFORMATION (YOURSELF)

Name * Malcolm Nelson

Address *

Phone

Email

RESPONDENT INFORMATION (PERSON/PERSON(S) YOU FEEL HAVE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST YOU)

Name * Cheyenne Wood

Address *

Phone

Email

TYPE OF DISCRIMINATION ALLEGED

Check the appropriate Category, indicate the Address or Location of facility you were denied the equal opportunity to use or enjoy, and the Basis of the alleged discrimination.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they were denied the equal use/enjoyment of a facility **located in the City of La Crosse**.

Category: * ☒ Housing
☐ Place of Public Accommodation or Amusement [i.e. restaurant, hotel, retail shop]
☐ City Facility

Address/Location: * 1512 Winnebago St, La Crosse, WI, 54601

Basis (Check all those you feel may apply):
☐ Sex
☒ Race
☐ Religion
☐ Age
☐ Disability
☐ Marital Status
☐ Color
☐ National Origin or Ancestry
☐ Lawful Source of Income
☐ Physical Appearance
☐ Sexual Orientation
☐ Gender Identity or Expression
☐ Political Activity
☐ Familial Status
☐ Domestic Partnership
☐ Student

FACTS

To the best of your ability, give a detailed statement regarding the facts giving rise to this Complaint. The statement must include the date or dates of the alleged

discrimination. City Ordinance provides that a written Complaint **must be filed within 180 days** after the complainant knew or should reasonably have known that the alleged act or acts occurred. Additional pages may be attached to this form if necessary.

Statement *

My name is Malcolm Nelson, and I am a Mexican-American. I lived with my landlord, Cheyenne Wood, at [REDACTED] La Crosse, WI for 1 year and 3 months. During my time living there, Ms. Wood was very forceful with making me clean up her messes and those of the other tenants'. I had thought nothing of this for a while until May 2021 when a dispute erupted in the house. Ms. Wood had tried to include in the lease a clause that stipulated her tenants must deep clean the entire house once a month, which included maintenance such as cleaning her gutters and the insides and outsides of her windows, etc.; however, because she worded it so vaguely, none of us agreed to in the lease what she was forcing us to do. I stopped cleaning up after Ms. Wood and her partner (who is not on the lease) shortly after my oral surgery. It was brought to my attention that it is a racist stereotype for Mexicans to clean up after Caucasians, and this made me feel intensely uncomfortable in the house. Ms. Wood insists that she had been unaware of the stereotype, which resulted in her racially microaggressing against me. I wrote Ms. Wood a letter of peaceful enjoyment stating that I no longer felt safe in the house because of her microaggressions. Ms. Wood hired a lawyer to mediate our dispute, and I told him about her microaggressions and how they dissuaded me from living there any longer. To my shock, her lawyer completely ignored my concerns about racism and drafted a written agreement for me to sign that stated in legal jargon that we would essentially sweep Ms. Wood's racist actions under the rug. This prompted me to move out earlier than anticipated because I no longer felt safe in Ms. Wood's residence. I believe Ms. Wood's racist actions resulted in the forced eviction of myself from the premises and that this violated my right to fair housing.