

Chapter 16

OWNER DISAPPROVAL AND RESTRICTION

[24 CFR 982.54, 982.306, 982.453]

It is the policy of the PHA to recruit owners to participate in the voucher program. The PHA will provide owners with prompt and professional service in order to maintain an adequate supply of available housing throughout the jurisdiction of the PHA. The regulations define when the PHA must disallow an owner participation in the program, and they provide the PHA discretion to disapprove or otherwise restrict the participation of owners in certain categories. This chapter describes the criteria for owner disapproval, and the various penalties for owner violations.

A. **DISAPPROVAL OF OWNER** [24 CFR 982.306, 982.54(d)(8)]

The owner does not have a right to participate in the program. For purposes of this section, "owner" includes a principal or other interested party.

The PHA will disapprove the owner for the following reasons:

- HUD or other housing agencies have informed the PHA that the owner has been disbarred, suspended, or subject to a limited denial of participation under 24 CFR part 24.
- HUD has informed the PHA that the Federal government has instituted an administrative or judicial action against the owner for violation of the Fair Housing Act or other Federal equal opportunity requirements and such action is pending.
- HUD has informed the PHA that a court or administrative agency has determined that the owner has violated the Fair Housing Act or other Federal equal opportunity requirements.
- Unless their lease was effective prior to June 17, 1998, the owner may not be a parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sister or brother of any family member. The PHA will waive this restriction as a reasonable accommodation for a family member who is a person with a disability.
- In cases where the owner and tenant bear the same last name, the PHA may, at its discretion, require the family and or owner to certify whether they are related to each other in any way.
- The owner has violated obligations under a housing assistance payments contract under Section 8 of the 1937 Act (42 U.S.C. 1437f).
- The owner has committed fraud, bribery or any other corrupt act in connection with any Federal housing program.
- The owner has engaged in drug-related criminal activity or any violent criminal activity.

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- The owner has a history or practice of non-compliance with the HQS for units leased under the tenant-based programs or with applicable housing standards for units leased with project-based Section 8 assistance or leased under any other Federal housing program.
- The owner has a history or practice of renting units that fail to meet State or local housing codes.
- The owner has a history or practice of failing to terminate tenancy of tenants of units assisted under Section 8 or any other federally assisted housing program for activity by the tenant, any member of the household, a guest or another person under the control of any member of the household that:
 - Threatens the right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents;
 - Threatens the health or safety of other residents, or of owner employees or other persons engaged in management of the housing.
 - Is drug-related criminal activity or violent criminal activity
- The owner has not paid State or local real estate taxes, fines or assessments for all HCV subsidized properties located in Johnson County.

B. OWNER RESTRICTIONS AND PENALTIES [24 CFR 982.453]

If an owner has committed fraud or abuse or is guilty of frequent or serious contract violations, the PHA will restrict the owner from future participation in the program for a period of time commensurate with the seriousness of the offense. The PHA may also terminate some or all contracts with the owner.

Before imposing any penalty against an owner the PHA will review all relevant factors pertaining to the case, and will consider such factors as the owner's record of compliance and the number of violations.

Taxes on Landlord properties will be checked prior to entering into a HAP contract (initial lease-up) and bi-annually (June and January) and if found to be delinquent the landlord will receive 30 days to get the property taxes paid. If the taxes are left unpaid immediate action to terminate the Housing Assistance Payment Contract will be initiated and the Section 8 participant will be given proper notification and issued a voucher to find another housing unit. The tenant will not be responsible for the remaining balance of their lease if this occurs.

C. CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP

A change in ownership does require execution of a new contract and lease.

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- * The PHA will process a change of ownership only upon the written request of the new owner and only if accompanied by a copy of the escrow statement or other document showing the transfer of title, recorded deed and the employee identification number or social security number of the new owner.
- * The PHA must receive a written request by the old owner in order to change the HAP payee and/or the address to which payment is to be sent.
- * If the new owner does not want an assignment of the contract, the PHA will terminate the HAP contract with the old owner, since they are no longer the owner. The new owner may offer the family a new assisted lease. The family may elect to enter into the new lease or move to another unit.