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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Connecticut Fair Housing Center Secures \$125,000 Settlement  
for Danbury Client Denied Reasonable Accommodation for Disability**

The Connecticut Fair Housing Center, representing Laura Brothers, has settled a complaint against the Danbury Housing Authority alleging it violated fair housing laws when it denied Ms. Brothers' request for a reasonable accommodation. The complaint was settled for a total of \$125,000.

Ms. Brothers lives in a handicap-accessible apartment managed by the Danbury Housing Authority. With mobility challenges that required her to use a walker and later a wheelchair, Ms. Brothers often found parking in the complex difficult because it was on a first-come, first-served basis, meaning that she was not guaranteed to get a spot near her unit. So, in 2015, she requested as a reasonable accommodation that the Danbury Housing Authority make an exception to its first-come, first-served parking policy and assign her a reserved parking space close to her apartment. Under fair housing laws, housing providers are required to make changes to rules or practices that can allow a person with a disability to better access and enjoy their home. After the Danbury Housing Authority twice denied Ms. Brothers' request, she contacted local disability-rights organizations that referred her to the Connecticut Fair Housing Center for legal assistance.

"I don't know what I would have done without the Center," says Ms. Brothers. "They are an invaluable resource. Getting the parking space took the worry out of leaving my home and restored my freedom to live my life on my terms."

The Connecticut Fair Housing Center, representing Ms. Brothers, brought a complaint against the Danbury Housing Authority alleging discrimination on the basis of disability, which is illegal under Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46a-64c and 42 U.S.C. § 3604. The complaint, filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut, alleged that the denial of Ms. Brothers' request for a reasonable accommodation constituted illegal discrimination on the basis of disability. Under the terms of the settlement agreement, the housing authority must provide Ms. Brothers with an assigned parking space in addition to the monetary damages. The housing authority settled without admitting liability. Ms. Brothers is using her experience to give back, and has become a member of the Danbury Commission for Persons with Disabilities, one of the organizations that supported her during this experience.

"This is a situation that easily could have been avoided if the housing provider followed the law from the start," said Pamela Heller, a staff attorney with the Center. "We are happy about the outcome, and we hope that it will ensure that housing providers are more careful in considering requests like Ms. Brothers' to avoid violating people's rights."

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*The Connecticut Fair Housing Center is a statewide nonprofit civil rights organization dedicated to ensuring that all people have equal access to housing opportunities in Connecticut. For more about our work, please visit [www.ctfairhousing.org](http://www.ctfairhousing.org).*

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