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**Maryland Legal Aid Files Another Lawsuit Against Landlord Operating Unlicensed Property in Somerset County**

**Somerset County, Md.**, (October 26, 2023) – This week Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) filed a second lawsuit against Eric Sessoms and Mt Vernon Group, LLC, alleging that they operated another bug-infested, unlivable rental property without a license and also collected rent and evicted a tenant in that unlicensed property, which is illegal under Maryland law. The lawsuit also alleges that the Defendants collected an unlawfully large security deposit.

Because of Defendants' actions, MLA's client Bobbie Molina and her children were forced into homelessness and lived out of her car for several months. Additionally, and as a result of the Defendants' actions, Ms. Molina has experienced anxiety, depression, panic attacks, and headaches, among other symptoms of emotional distress with physical manifestations. MLA's complaint asserts that Mr. Sessoms and Mt Vernon Group violated the Maryland Consumer Protection Act and the Maryland Fair Debt Collection Act and failed to disclose to Ms. Molina that the Mt. Vernon Group did not have a license to rent the property.

Ms. Molina's story is tragically similar to those of two other women who have also [turned to MLA](#) for help fighting Mt Vernon and Mr. Sessoms. In fact, Mt Vernon Group, LLC owns roughly 40 rental properties in Somerset, Worcester, and Wicomico Counties. Mt Vernon LLC and Sessoms are knowingly operating unlicensed, unlivable properties to this day.

Supervising Attorney for Maryland Legal Aid's Lower Eastern Shore Office Jamie Miliman, a leader of MLA's statewide housing work who is spearheading this series of cases, said, "MLA warns tenants in Somerset County and across Maryland to be wary of illegal and predatory tactics by landlords, particularly those families who are struggling to find affordable housing. Though the landlords have an obligation to ensure their properties are up to code prior to renting them out, it is important to do your own research to make sure the property you are renting is licensed and has been inspected to ensure it is safe and complies with all relevant housing codes. However, no matter what a renter knows, it is never okay for landlords to operate these kinds of decrepit houses, particularly without a license. And that's why we are suing."

[Complaint](#) and [Exhibit](#)

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## About Maryland Legal Aid

Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) is a statewide private, nonprofit law firm that provides free, civil legal services to low-income and vulnerable people to address their most fundamental legal problems. From its 12 offices around the state and through its many community-based clinics, we help our clients preserve and access safe and affordable housing, maintain custody of their children, and be safe from domestic violence. MLA increases our clients' economic security by defending against consumer debt, including foreclosures and tax sales, removing barriers to employment, and accessing critical income supports such as unemployment, food stamps and other vital public benefits. Through special projects, we represent seniors, nursing home residents, children in alleged abuse and neglect cases, migrant farmworkers, and those in mental health institutions. In its advocacy, MLA seeks systemic change through impact litigation, policy advocacy, and storytelling.

