

Iowa Will Pay \$4.15 Million In Finance Authority Sex Harassment Settlements

Iowa Public Radio | By [Katarina Sostaric](#)

Published February 4, 2019 at 7:20 PM CST



John Pemble/IPR File

Former Iowa Finance Authority Executive Director Dave Jamison

Iowa will pay \$4.15 million to two women who accused former Iowa Finance Authority director Dave Jamison of sexual harassment in settlement payments approved Monday by state officials.

Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds fired Jamison in March 2018 after she received complaints about him. Jamison was a longtime friend of the governor's.

A [third-party investigation completed in September](#) confirmed many of the allegations of sexual comments and one incident in which Jamison grabbed an employee's breasts.

Beth Mahaffey, former business development director at IFA, alleged Jamison sexually

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Iowa Solicitor General Jeffrey Thompson said settling the employment claims before Mahaffey and Jared could file lawsuits is best for the state.

“That’s the whole point of this is to buy peace for the victims, to buy peace for the state, to do a fair thing based on a rapport instead of engaging in what-ifs,” Thompson said.

The early settlements mean the state can avoid what could have been a long process that played out in public court proceedings. State officials are not admitting wrongdoing by settling.

The \$4.15 million will come from the state’s general fund, but Iowa could sue Jamison for the money in the future.

Auditor Rob Sand said the state should not move forward with the settlements unless state officials promise to do that.

“I think if Dave Jamison isn’t paying for what he did, then taxpayers shouldn’t be paying for it either,” Sand said.

After Jamison was fired, he [unsuccessfully appealed to the state](#) to continue receiving unemployment benefits.

Settlement documents indicate Reynolds will ask IFA to reimburse the state using non-public funds.

The governor’s office did not respond to a request for comment Monday.

Sand and Treasurer Michael Fitzgerald also said they were concerned that the term “sexual assault” appears in Jared’s settlement documents. They asked about potential criminal charges.

Thompson said criminal charges are typically in the hands of county attorneys, not the attorney general’s office.

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Katarina Sostaric

Katarina Sostaric is IPR's State Government Reporter, with expertise in state government and agencies, state officials and how public policy affects Iowans' lives. She's covered Iowa's annual legislative sessions, the closure of state agencies, and policy impacts on family planning services and access, among other topics, for IPR, NPR and other public media organizations. Sostaric is a graduate of the [University of Missouri](#).

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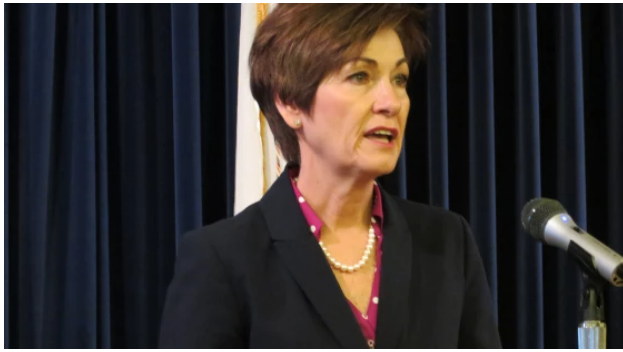


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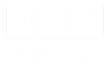
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