

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Note: The Violence Against Women Act is incorporated as part of the Agency Admissions & Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP). It is also posted on the agency website at www.fmhousing.com. If the agency becomes aware of a situation where this Act would apply, the client would be informed of the Act, and proper procedures would be followed. Copies of the VAWA brochure are maintained in the agency lobby so that clients are aware of the Act's existence.

22.0 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Violence Against Women (Title VI Violence Against Women & Dept of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 – Pub. L. 109-162). Reporting incidents of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking to law enforcement, victim's rights advocates, and the PHA may help preserve your housing rights. The PHA may not deny, remove or terminate assistance to a victim of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking based solely on such an incident or threat.

The PHA may deny, remove, or terminate assistance to an individual perpetrator of such actions and continue to allow the victim or other household members to remain in the dwelling unit or receive housing assistance. This does not limit the authority of the PHA to terminate a victim's assistance for other criminal activity or good cause, such as actual or eminent threat to other tenants or employees, inviting the perpetrator into the unit, or damage to PHA owned property.

In processing a request by a victim for continued assistance the PHA may request that you certify that you are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking, and that the actual or threatened abuse meets the requirements set forth in the Violence Against Women Act.

Such certification must include the name of the perpetrator. If the victim does not provide the requested certification within 14 business days, housing assistance may be terminated.

CERTIFICATION OF DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE,
OR STALKING

U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development
Office of Public and Indian Housing

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Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response. This includes the time for collecting, reviewing, and reporting the data. Information provided is to be used by PHAs and Section 8 owners or managers to request a tenant to certify that the individual is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking. The information is subject to the confidentiality requirements of the HUD Reform Legislation. This agency may not collect this information, and you are not required to complete this form unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Purpose of Form: The Violence Against Women and Justice Department Reauthorization Act of 2005 protects qualified tenants and family members of tenants who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking from being evicted or terminated from housing assistance based on acts of such violence against them. -
Use of Form: A family member must complete and submit this certification, or the information that may be provided in lieu of the certification, within 14 business days of receiving the written request for this certification by the PHA, owner or manager. The certification or alternate documentation must be returned to the person and address specified in the written request for the certification. If the family member has not provided the requested certification or the information that may be provided in lieu of the certification by the 14th business day or any extension of the date provided by the PHA, manager and owner, none of the protection afforded to victims of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking (collectively "domestic violence") under the Section 8 or public housing programs apply.

Note that a family member may provide, in lieu of this certification (or in addition to it):

- (1) A Federal, State, tribal, territorial, or local police or court record; or
- (2) Documentation signed by an employee, agent or volunteer of a victim service provider, an attorney or a medical professional, from whom the victim has sought assistance in addressing domestic violence, dating violence or stalking, or the effects of abuse, in which the professional attest under penalty of perjury (28 U.S.C. 1746) to the professional's belief that the incident or incidents in question are bona fide incidents of abuse, and the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking has signed or attested to the documentation.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

Date Written Request Received By Family Member: _____

Name of the Victim of Domestic Violence: _____

Name(s) of other family members listed on the lease: _____

Name of the abuser: _____

Relationship to Victim: _____

Date the incident of domestic violence occurred: _____ Time: _____

Location of Incident: _____

Description of Incident:

Name of Victim: _____

I hereby certify the information that I have provided is true and correct and I believe that, based on the information I have provided, that I am a victim of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking and that the incident(s) in question are bona fide incidents of such actual or threatened abuse. I acknowledge that submission of false information relating to program eligibility is a basis for termination of assistance or eviction.

Signature _____ Executed on (Date) _____

All information provided to a PHA, owner or manager relating to the incident(s) of domestic violence, including the fact that an individual is a victim of domestic violence shall be retained in confidence by an owner and shall neither be entered into any shared database nor provided to any related entity, except to the extent that such disclosure is (i) requested or consented to by the individual in writing, (ii) required for use in an eviction proceeding or termination of assistance; or (iii) otherwise required by applicable law.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Any information provided pursuant to the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) shall neither be entered into any shared database nor provided to any related entity, except to the extent that disclosure is requested or consented to by the individual in writing; required for use in an eviction proceeding of an abuser, stalker or perpetrator of domestic violence; or is otherwise required by applicable law.

STATE AND LOCAL LAWS

Some states have passed laws effecting applicants, tenants, owners and landlords that are more stringent than requirements of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Many states have related laws pending. You may want to check with your state and/or city for the most current state and local laws protecting victims of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking.

VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN
ACT

**What Applicants,
Tenants, Owners and
Landlords Need to
Know**

**Applicable to Public Housing and
Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher
Programs**

Effective January 5, 2006

This brochure meets notification requirements of the federal Violence Against Women Act.

VAWA PROTECTION FOR PUBLIC HOUSING AND SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER ASSISTANCE APPLICANTS

A Public Housing Agency (PHA), owner or landlord may not deny admission to an applicant (male or female) who has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking if the applicant otherwise qualifies for assistance or admission.

To qualify for public housing or housing choice voucher assistance, all applicants, including victims of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking, must, at a minimum:

- meet the local PHA's definition of "family";
- be income eligible;
- have at least one family member who is a U.S. citizen or has eligible immigration status;
- pass criminal background screening;
- have no outstanding debt to the PHA; and
- meet all other local PHA screening criteria.

Some, but not all, PHAs give preference to applicants who are victims of domestic violence. If you are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking, ask if the PHA gives this preference. If they do, the PHA may request that you provide a certification documenting the situation. If you fail to provide a requested certification within 14 business days after receiving the request, your request for a preference may be denied.

VAWA PROTECTION FOR PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS AND HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Reporting incidents of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking to law enforcement, victim's rights advocates, and the PHA may help preserve your housing rights. The PHA may not deny, remove or terminate assistance to a victim of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking based solely on such an incident or threat.

The PHA, an owner or landlord may deny, remove, or terminate assistance to an individual perpetrator of such

actions and continue to allow the victim or other household members to remain in the dwelling unit or receive housing assistance. This does not limit the authority of the PHA, owner or landlord to terminate your assistance for other criminal activity or good cause.

A Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Participant who is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking may request and be granted portability due to the incident or threat if they are otherwise compliant with all program obligations and the perpetrator has moved out of the dwelling unit.

In processing a request by a victim for continued assistance or for portability, the PHA may request that you certify that you are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking, and that the actual or threatened abuse meets the requirements set forth in the VAWA. Such certification must include the name of the perpetrator. If you do not provide the requested certification within 14 business days, your assistance may be terminated.