



SUBSIDIZED HOUSING RIGHTS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN SUBSIDIZED HOUSING HAVE RIGHTS

There is a new law that helps you if you are a victim of domestic violence **and** apply for or live in Public Housing, Subsidized Housing or Section 8 Voucher Programs. It is called VAWA. VAWA stands for the Violence Against Women Act. It says that a housing program cannot turn you down for housing, terminate you or evict you because of your abuser’s actions against you or a family member



Domestic violence can be violence against you or a family member, dating violence and stalking. The housing agency or landlord can ask you to prove the domestic violence. They may terminate the lease of the abuser and keep renting just to you. This law does not mean that the housing agency or landlord cannot enforce other housing program rules or other terms of the lease.

HOW DO I KNOW IF VAWA CAN HELP ME?

Look at the boxes below. Pick the one that is about your situation- are you applying or already a tenant? If you answer “Yes” to all 4 questions in the box you picked, then you may be protected by VAWA. Use the letter that comes with this fact sheet to tell the housing authority or landlord that you are protected by VAWA. Make sure you sign the letter and keep a copy for yourself.

APPLYING	Yes	No
I applied for public housing, a subsidized apartment, or Section 8 Voucher		
My application was denied		
Someone in my household has been a victim of domestic violence		
My application was denied because of what the abuser did		

ALREADY A TENANT	Yes	No
I live in public housing, subsidized apartment, or have a Section 8 Voucher		
I got a notice of lease violation, a notice of termination or eviction papers		
Someone in my household has been a victim of domestic violence		
I am being terminated or evicted because of what the abuser did		

If you are not safe because of domestic violence call: 1 (800) 289-6177. If you need more information, legal help to claim your rights under VAWA, or have been told that VAWA does not apply to you, call your legal aid office.

Minneapolis Legal Aid – CLE
MN Legal Services Coalition
2324 University Avenue W- Suite 101B
St. Paul, MN 55114

Don’t use this fact sheet if it is more than 1 year old.
Write us for updates, a fact sheet list, or alternate formats.
Fact Sheets aren’t a complete answer to a legal problem.
See a lawyer for advice.

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NOTICE

TO: Housing Authority or Landlord

RE: VAWA Protections

I understand that I should not be denied housing assistance, have my lease terminated or be evicted for reasons that are the result of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking against me or a member of my household. These protections became the law in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) enacted in January 2006. (Pub. L. 109-162)

Please apply the protections of VAWA to my situation when reviewing my application or before any lease termination or eviction against me or my household.

Please contact me for any information you need in order to provide my VAWA protections.

DATE: _____ **NAME:** _____

SIGN HERE: _____