



HELP FOR WINTER EMERGENCIES
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

DC Hypothermia Shelter Hotline: 1.800.535.7252

District residents have a **right to shelter** when the temperature or windchill falls below freezing (temperature below 32 degrees). **Call the Hypothermia Shelter Hotline for a ride to emergency shelter or for blankets and something warm to drink**, either for yourself or for someone you are worried about.

If you see someone who is laying on the street who is not responsive, or who's shivering uncontrollably and having difficulty speaking, call 911.

Problems getting into shelter? Call Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless at 202.328-5500 (M-F, 8am -6pm).

Assistance with Utilities: Energy Hotline 202.673.6750

If your heat is already cut-off:

- ▶ Call the Energy Hotline 24 hours, 7 days/week for help on what can be done; or
- ▶ Go to DC Dept. of Environment. **Two NEW Centers:** 1207 Taylor St NW (serving Wards 1-5) and 2100 MKL Jr. Ave SE (serving Wards 6-8). **8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Bring cut-off notice, copy of utility bill, ID, proof of income. Translation services are available.
- ▶ Landlord & Tenant Resource Center, Court Bldg. B, open Monday – Friday until noon

If you receive a Notice to Disconnect from PEPCO or Washington Gas:

- ▶ The District government offers help to qualified persons to pay their heating bills. Call the Energy Hotline or 311 to make an appointment. You will be told what documents you must bring with you.
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Evictions In Winter Months: Landlord-Tenant Resource Center

By law, your landlord cannot evict you when the temperature is below 32 degrees. If your landlord tries to evict you when it is below freezing, contact the **Landlord-Tenant Resource Center**, which provides **free legal information** to tenants.

- ▶ **Hours:** Monday to Friday, 9:15 am to 12 pm
 - ▶ **Place:** Court Building B, 510 4th Street, NW, Room 115
 - ▶ **Go in person.**
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Helping Someone in Danger

Winter often increases tensions at home and results in violence, abuse or feeling hopeless. If you are in danger, or know someone else who might be in danger, call one of these hotlines.

Domestic Violence Hotline:

- ▶ **My Sister's Place – 202.529.5991**

You also can call the National Domestic Violence Hotline to find shelters and help in DC metro area: 1.800.799.7233 or 1.800.787.3224 (TTY for the deaf). House of Ruth's Domestic Violence Support Center is available for counseling. Call 202.667.7001, ext.515, for an appointment.

If you or someone you know has been raped or sexually assaulted, call the DC Rape Crisis Center: 202.333.7273

Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline: 202.671.7233

Call the hotline if you believe a child is being abused or neglected. The hotline is open 24 hours a day. You will be asked for information about where the child can be found.

Social Services Helpline: 311

The Mayor's Call Center answers questions about social services that are available to DC residents in their own wards and city-wide. OPERATES 24 HOURS, 7 DAYS/WEEK

DC Mental Health Access Helpline: 1.888.793.4357

General number for all DC Govt. adult, child & family mental health services (24/7), including immediate care & to reach Mobile Crisis Services (9AM- 1AM).

- ▶ **EMERGENCY PSYCHIATRIC CARE FOR ADULTS.** WALK-IN SERVICE – DC GENERAL HOSPITAL BLDG. 14, 1905 E ST.SE, or call **202.673.9319**.
 - ▶ **SAME DAY URGENT CARE FOR ADULTS.** WALK-IN SERVICE (8:30AM – 3PM) – call 202.442.4202 for clinic locations.
 - ▶ **FOR YOUTHS.** Covenant House, a private organization in SE, offers extensive services for at-risk & homeless youths. Call 202.610.9600 (M- F, 8am – 8pm) or the NINELINE: 1.800.999.9999 (7 days, 2pm – midnight). Go to www.covenanthouse.org/houses/dc for more information.
 - ▶ **FOR CHILDREN.** ChAMPS Hotline: 202.481.1450. Catholic Charities service for children in emotional crisis.
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OTHER PLACES FOR HELP

Winterhaven Homeless Veterans Stand Down: January 22, 2010, 9am – 2pm

For Homeless DC Area Veterans:

- ▶ Medical screening
 - ▶ Mental health referrals
 - ▶ Employment and housing services
 - ▶ Location: DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 50 Irving St. NW.
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DC Bar Advice & Referral Clinic

- ▶ Free legal information about public benefits, family, housing, health, employment, consumer, bankruptcy, debt collection, immigration and asylum, personal injury, probate and tax matters.
 - ▶ No criminal legal services.
 - ▶ **Locations: Bread for the City NW Center**, 1525 7th Street, NW (Green Line to Shaw-Howard University) AND **Bread for the City SE Center**, 1640 Good Hope Road, SE (Green Line to Anacostia).
 - ▶ You do not need an appointment – just show up.
 - ▶ Clinics are held from **10:00am – 12:00 noon**
 - ▶ **Dates: 2010 – Nov. 13 & Dec. 11; 2011 – Jan. 9, Feb. 13, Mar. 13, April 10, May 8**
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CUA “Warm Line”: 202.319.6779

Non-emergency service that helps persons with Dept. of Human Services matters locate free legal services. Calls accepted any time; they will be returned within 24 hours.

Legal Services – Online Help

To find legal information, or a lawyer for help with family, housing, public benefits, employment, health, immigration, probate, consumer and other non-criminal issues, go to www.LawHelp.org/DC.

DC Access to Justice Commission is a non-profit organization established by the DC Court of Appeals to identify and address unmet civil legal needs of low-income DC residents, and to help reduce the barriers they face in accessing justice.

See www.dcaccesstojustice.org

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