

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 affecting 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.

Local Resources

National Domestic Violence Hotline:

1(800)799-7233 or 1(800)787-3224 (TTY)

Victim Support Services:

(660)665-1617

Kirksville Police Department:

(660)665-5621

100 Valley Forge Drive
P.O. Box 730
Kirksville, MO 63501

Phone: (660)665-8539
Fax: (660)665-1308
Email: patti@kirksvillehousingauthority.org

Kirksville Housing Authority



"Promoting adequate and affordable housing for eligible residents of the City of Kirksville"

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

**WHAT APPLICANTS,
TENANTS AND LANDLORDS NEED
TO KNOW**

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



Equal Housing Opportunity

Definitions

- ◆ Domestic Violence - Felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabited with the victim as spouse, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction
- ◆ Dating Violence - Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic nature with the victim; and where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of 1) the length of the relationship; 2) the type of relationship and 3) the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.
- ◆ Stalking - To follow, pursue, or repeatedly commit acts with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate another person .

VAWA Protection for 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 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 requirements

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 Tenants and 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 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.