



You Are Not Alone!

RRHA IS HERE TO HELP

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

YOUR HOUSING RIGHTS UNDER VAWA

VAWA (the Violence Against Women Act) provides housing protections for people who are experiencing or have experienced *domestic violence*, *dating violence*, *sexual assault*, or *stalking*. These protections apply to RRHA housing residents and may apply to a household member or other person connected to your household regardless of your sex, sexual orientation or gender identity.



YOU CANNOT LOSE YOUR HOME JUST BECAUSE:

- You or a household member has been subjected to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking
- Problems such as certain noise complaints, property damage, or another person's criminal actions are directly related to the abuse against you or a household member.



YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- **Request an emergency transfer** to another unit when you meet VAWA's safety requirements. PLEASE NOTE: A transfer cannot be guaranteed, but staff will make every effort to relocate the family to safety
- **Ask that the person causing the harm be removed from the lease** through the process called lease bifurcation, depending on your situation.

YOU MAY REQUEST AN EMERGENCY TRANSFER WHEN:

- (1) you or a household member has been subjected to VAWA violence/abuse;
 - (2) you reasonably believe there is a threat of imminent harm, or
 - (3) sexual assault has occurred on the property.
- A request for transfer should be made within ninety (90) days of the assault.



INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL



Information given to RRHA about why you need VAWA protections is kept strictly confidential and securely separated from your other resident records, with limited exceptions required by law or with your written permission.

YOUR CHOICE ABOUT DOCUMENTATION

If RRHA requests written documentation, you will be given at least **14** business days to respond (*with reasonable extensions if needed*). You may provide ONE of these:

- 1) a self-certification form;
- 2) a statement from a qualified survivor service provider, attorney, mental health professional, or medical professional;
- 3) a police, administrative, or court record; or
- 4) other acceptable statement or evidence, allowed by RRHA.

RRHA generally cannot require more than one type unless conflicting information is received.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:



VAWA does not prevent eviction or loss of assistance for lease or program violations that are not caused by VAWA violence/abuse. It also does not eliminate action when other residents or housing staff face immediate physical danger or harm and no other action can reduce the threat.

NEED HELP OR WANT TO TALK? Start with your Property Manager for information about your VAWA rights.
 RRHA Resident Advocate (Ombudsman): <https://www.rrha.com/about/ombudsman/> Email: ombudsman@rrha.com
 or call (804) 495-5885 | RRHA Anonymous Tip Line: (804) 780-4244 | Email: public.safety.com

rrha.com

Additional resources can be found at <https://www.rrha.com>



For police, fire or medical emergencies, call 911

