Subsidized Housing Rights for Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

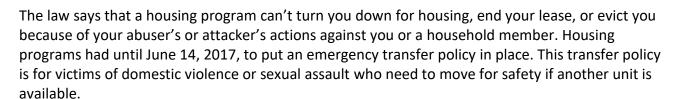
Victims of Domestic Violence in Subsidized Housing Have Rights

There is a federal law called VAWA (Violence Against Women Act). VAWA helps if you or a household member are a victim of:

- gender-based violence,
- domestic violence,
- harassment, or
- criminal sexual conduct

and apply for or live in:

- Public Housing
- Subsidized Housing
- Section 8 Voucher Programs
- USDA Rural Housing or
- Low Income Housing Tax Credit (Section 42)



You can even choose to give up your subsidy and move out for safety. You can end your lease on a date of your choice without giving up your rights to get your security deposit back.

Domestic violence can be violence against you or a household member, dating violence and stalking. The housing agency or landlord can ask you to prove the domestic violence or sexual assault. They may end the lease for the abuser or attacker and keep renting just to you.

This law does not mean that the housing agency or landlord can't enforce other housing program rules or other terms of the lease. You can be evicted for something else that violates the rules or your lease.



How do I know if VAWA can help me?

Look at the box that fits your situation.

I am looking for housing	Yes	No
I applied for public housing, a subsidized apartment, USDA Rural Housing, Low Income Housing Tax Credit (Section 42) housing or have a Section 8 Voucher.		
My application was denied.		
Someone in my household has been a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault.		
My application was denied because of the abuser's or attacker's violence, harassment or criminal sexual conduct against me or a household member OR because of something that happened because of what the abuser/attacker did. (example: I can't pay rent because my abuser stole my money)		

If you can say "yes" to <u>all</u> the statements in this box, you may be protected by VAWA. Fill out the notice attached to this fact sheet. Give the notice to the housing authority, owner or landlord and tell them that you are protected by VAWA and what you want. Make sure you sign the letter and keep a copy for yourself.

I am already a tenant	Yes	No
I live in public housing, a subsidized apartment, USDA Rural Housing, Low Income Housing Tax Credit (Section 42) housing or I have a Section 8 Voucher.		
I got a bill for damage caused by the abuser or attacker.		
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 or sexual assault.		
I am being billed, terminated, or evicted because of the abuser's or attacker's violence, harassment or criminal sexual conduct against me or a household member OR because of something that happened because of what the abuser/attacker did. (example: I can't pay rent because my abuser stole my money)		
I need to move to a different subsidized unit so the victim of domestic violence or sexual assault in my household can escape harm from the abuser or attacker.		
I need to "port" my Section 8 Voucher to a new location to protect the health or safety of the victim of domestic violence or sexual assault in my household.		
I need my housing subsidy provider or my landlord to take the abuser or attacker off my lease but let me and my family stay on the lease.		
My income has gone down because of domestic violence or sexual assault. I need my rent recalculated right away.		
I chose to give up my subsidy entirely to move for safety. I chose the date to move. I do not give up my rights to a refund of my security deposit.		

If you can say "yes" to <u>any</u> of the statements in this box, you may be protected by VAWA. Fill out the notice attached to this fact sheet. Give the notice to the housing authority, owner or landlord and tell them that you are protected by VAWA and what you want. Make sure you sign the letter and keep a copy for yourself.

If you are not safe

- because of domestic violence contact Day One Services
 Call 1(866) 223-1111 or text (612) 399-9995
 Or go to www.dayoneservices.org or www.MNcasa.org
- because of sexual assault call: 1 (800) 656-4673.

More Help

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 local legal aid office at 1(877) 696-6529.

Or look for help from other programs at www.lawhelpmn.org/providers-and-clinics.

VAWA Notice

TO:	Housing Authority/Section 8 Program/Landlord
FROM:	Name:
	Address:
DATE:	
assault. The	nousehold member is, a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking or sexual Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Pub. L. 117-103, Division W, 136 Stat. 49 (VAWA h 15, 2022), applies to me.
□ be ev □ have □ be ev	my housing application denied for reasons related to the abuse or assault icted for not paying for damage caused by an abuser my lease terminated for reasons related to the abuse or assault icted for reasons related to the abuse or assault eated differently than others based on the abuse or assault
	for your actions against me are the result of the domestic violence, dating violence, exual assault that has happened to me or my household member.
when when and ta and ta when when and tra and girlocation and re or sext	reviewing my application reviewing an alleged lease violation ke the bill for damages caused by abuser or attacker off my account ke my abuser or attacker off my lease and make a new lease agreement with me considering termination of my lease considering evicting me ansfer me to another subsidized unit we me new Section 8 Voucher papers to move we me new Section 8 Voucher papers to port my Voucher out of your program to a new on calculate my rent right away because my income decreased due to domestic violence ual assault. her) ct me for information that you need in order to provide me with my VAWA rights.
	ot give out the information in this notice to anyone, especially my abuser,
	written permission.
(Signature)	(keep a copy of this notice for your own records)