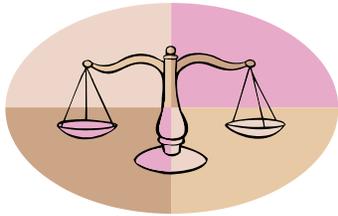


The information in this pamphlet is general legal information . It is not meant to take the place of speaking with an attorney about your specific circumstance.



If you are the victim of Domestic Violence and need assistance you can reach the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence Hotline at the following numbers. You will be directly connected with the program closest to you.

Hotline Number:

1-800-500-1119

TTY Number: **1-800-621-4202**

The information you share will be completely confidential.



The Florida Bar Foundation,
with Interest on Trust Accounts
program funding, provides support

FloridaLawHelp.org

To locate your local legal aid or legal services office,
please visit us on the web at

www.floridalawhelp.org

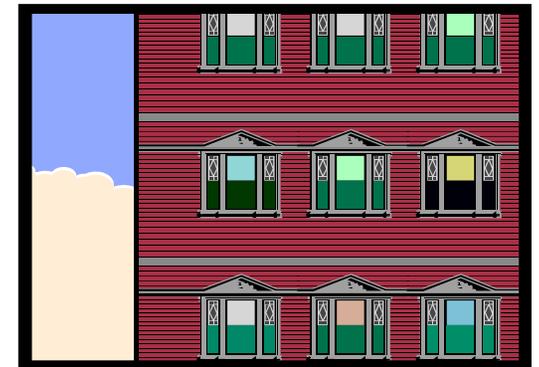
Your local legal aid or legal services office can be located through either the “Find Local Help” or “Directory” links at the top of the page.

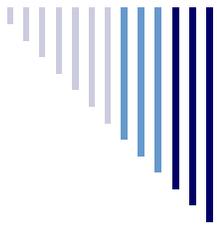
If you don't have access to the internet,
consult your local Directory Assistance for the number
of the legal aid or legal services office nearest

Special thanks to Community Legal Services
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FloridaLawHelp.org

Housing Rights
for Domestic
Violence
Survivors Living
in Public
Housing or
Using Vouchers





Frequently Asked Questions: Your rights under the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA)

1. What does VAWA 2005 do?

It protects survivors of domestic violence who live in public housing or receive Section 8 housing vouchers from being evicted because of the violence.

2. Who is protected by VAWA 2005?

Individuals and their immediate family members who live in public housing or receive housing vouchers (section 8) are covered. Individuals living in other types of housing may be entitled to similar protections under the Fair Housing Act.

3. What is an illegal eviction under VAWA 2005?

Incidents of violence cannot be used as a reason to evict or end voucher assistance. VAWA 2005 says this is NOT "good cause" or a "serious violation of the lease."

For example: the landlord or housing authority cannot evict you, if you are the VICTIM, because the fight was too loud or the police were called.



4. Does this mean that a domestic violence victim can never be evicted?

NO. If the VICTIM engages in criminal activity or commits a lease violation not related to the domestic violence, he or she can be evicted.

5. Can my abuser be evicted?

YES. VAWA 2005 allows the housing authority or landlord to "split" a lease and evict the abuser only.

6. What can I do if I think I am being illegally evicted for being the victim of Domestic Violence?

First, contact your local Legal Aid or Legal Services office to see if they can assist you. The agency listed on the back of this brochure can direct you. Tell the legal aid/ legal services office that you are the victim of domestic violence and you think that is why you are being evicted.



7. Can the landlord ask for "proof?"

YES, the landlord or housing authority can ask for proof to show that you are the victim of domestic violence and that you are seeking protection under VAWA 2005. Types of proof are a police report, an injunction, or a statement from a medical professional, attorney who is helping you or victim service provider. An injunction or a police report is NOT required to be protected under VAWA 2005.

8. Can my application be rejected because I am the victim of domestic violence?

NO, VAWA specifically states that a person cannot be denied access to public housing or Section 8 vouchers because they are a victim of domestic violence. However, you still must meet all other requirements.