

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

The Violence Against Women and Justice Department Reauthorization Act of 2005 protects tenants and family members of tenants who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking from being evicted or terminated from housing assistance based on acts of such violence against them.

If Head of Household or a household member is at risk the VAWA provides that the tenant certify that the individual is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking and that the incidence(s) of threatened or actual abuse are bona fide in determining whether the protections afforded to such individuals under VAWA are applicable.

In order to certify to the above, the PHA requires that the tenant come into the office and request the certification form. In the event that tenant is physically unable to do so, they must call the office to make special accommodations. The tenant must complete, sign and submit, within 14 business days of the request, certification form HUD-50066. In lieu of a certification form, or in addition to the certification form, a tenant may provide to PHA (1) a Federal, State, tribal, territorial, or local police record or court record; (2) documentation signed and attested to by an employee, agent or volunteer of a victim service provider, an attorney or a medical professional, from whom the victim has sought assistance in addressing domestic violence, dating violence or stalking, or the effects of abuse, in which the professional attests under penalty of perjury (28 U.S.C. 1746) to the professional's belief that the incident or incidents in question are bona fide incidents of abuse, and the victim of domestic violence, or stalking has signed or attested to the documentation. Such documentation is at the documentation of the Housing Authority.

If the individual does not provide the certification form HUD – 50066 or the information that may be provided in lieu of the certification by the 14th business day or any extension of that date provided by the PHA, none of the protections afforded to the victim of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking will apply. Therefore, the tenant's lease will be terminated without regard to the amendments made by the Violence Against Women Act, Section 606 and 607.

Resident Signature

Date

PHA Representative Signature

Date