

**6. Can a housing provider share the information I provide about the abuse with others?**

No. The Authority or landlord cannot give the information you provide about the abuse to others. The information may be shared if you agree in writing, or if it is needed to evict the abuser from the housing.

**7. Does this mean that a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking cannot be evicted at all?**

No. You can still be evicted for serious or repeated lease violations that aren't related to the abuse. The Authority or the landlord must hold you to the same standard as other tenants.



**Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authority**

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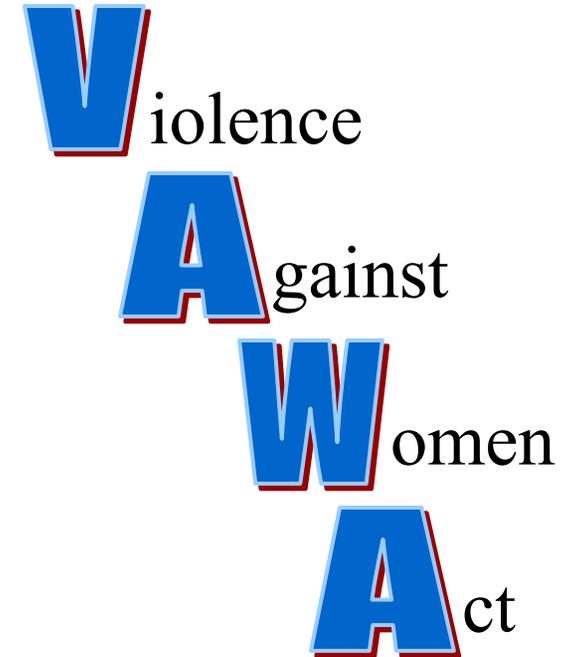
**CONFIDENTIALITY**

Any information provided pursuant to the Violence Against Women Act 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 effecting applicants, tenants, owners and landlords that are more stringent than requirements of the Violence Against Women Act. 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.

**The Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authority does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, familial status, disability or elderliness.**



**Know Your Rights:  
Domestic Violence and  
Assisted Housing**

**PORTSMOUTH**  
REDEVELOPMENT & HOUSING AUTHORITY



## The Rights of Domestic Violence Victims Living in Assisted Housing

Are you a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking?

Are you an applicant or do you live in public housing, Section 8 housing, or supportive housing for the elderly or disabled? Are you a landlord participating in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program?

**A law called VAWA, the Violence Against Women Act, may help you.**

### 1. Does VAWA protect me?

VAWA applies only to applicants and tenants (male or female) in certain assisted housing programs:

- public housing,
- Section 8 HCV,
- project-based Section 8.

The law does not cover tenants who live in private housing with no rental assistance.

VAWA protects victims of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. It also covers the victim's immediate family members, except for the abuser. You don't have to be married to or living with the abuser to be covered by VAWA.

### 2. What rights does VAWA offer?

Rights for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking include:

- If you are applying for housing, you can't be denied simply because you are a victim.
- You can't be evicted or lose your voucher based on violence against you.
- Acts of violence against you cannot be considered "serious or repeated violations" of your lease or "good cause" for evicting you or ending your voucher.

### 3. What if I need to get the abuser out of the home?

If a member of your household uses violence against you, Portsmouth Redevelopment & Housing Authority (Authority) or your landlord may evict the abuser alone, and let you and your family stay in the home.

### 4. What if I need to move to escape the abuse?

If you have a Section 8 voucher, VAWA states that the Authority may permit you to move and keep your voucher, even if your lease has not ended. The Authority may ask you to prove that you are moving because of violence.

VAWA does not cover emergency moves for public housing tenants. You can still ask the Authority to transfer you to another unit. The Authority may ask you to put your request in writing and to prove that you are moving for safety reasons.

### 5. How do I prove that I can use VAWA's protections?

To see if you can use VAWA, the Authority or your landlord may ask for information or "certification" showing that you are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking. There are three ways you can show that you are a victim:

- Complete the HUD Form # 50066. The form will ask for your name, the name of your abuser, the abuser's relationship to you, the date, time and place of the violence, and a description of the violence. To get the HUD form call the Authority.
- Provide a letter signed by a victim service provider, attorney, or medical professional who has helped you with the abuse. You must also sign this letter.
- Provide a police or court record, such as a restraining order.

The Authority or your landlord must give you at least 14 business days (weekends and holidays do not count) to provide proof of the violence.