

Una versión en Español de este documento está disponible en su Oficina de Gestión, en la Oficina Central del CHA o en la página web de CHA: [www.cambridge-housing.org](http://www.cambridge-housing.org)  
Yon vèsyon Kreyòl Ayisyen pou dokiman enpòtan sa-a disponib nan Biwo Administrasyon-a, nan Biwo Santral CHA, epi nan sit intènèt CHA: [www.cambridge-housing.org](http://www.cambridge-housing.org)  
A versão em Português deste documento está a sua disposição no seu Escritório de Gerencia, no Local Central de Gerencia do CHA, e no Website do CHA: [www.cambridge-housing.org](http://www.cambridge-housing.org)

## IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING PARTICIPANT & APPLICANT RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS AS THEY RELATE TO THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

A recent law known as Violence Against Women Act or "VAWA" provides new protections for victims of domestic violence, dating violence and stalking who are residents of or applicants to the Public Housing or Leased Housing Programs.

### You should know that:

1. **Admissions:** If an applicant is or has been the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, this is not an appropriate basis on which to deny program assistance or to deny admission if the applicant otherwise qualifies for assistance or admission.

### 2. Lease terms:

- An incident or incidents of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking will not be considered to be a "serious or repeated" violation of the lease by the victim or threatened victim of that violence and shall not be good cause for terminating the assistance, tenancy or occupancy rights of the victim of that violence.
- Additionally, your tenancy, assistance or occupancy rights will not be terminated as a result of criminal activity, if that criminal activity is directly related to domestic violence, dating violence or stalking engaged in by a member of your household, a guest or another person under your control, and you or an immediate family member is the victim.

### However there are some limitations to these protections:

- Your tenancy and/or assistance *may be* terminated if the owner, manager, or housing authority can demonstrate "an actual and imminent threat" to other tenants or to persons employed at or providing services to the development.
- If you claim protection under VAWA against termination of your tenancy or assistance, the owner, manager, or housing authority may require you to deliver a certification, which you must provide in 14 days, concerning the incident or incidents that you believe raises the VAWA protections.

3. **Certification:** There are three ways to certify if the owner, manager or CHA requests you to do so. The law allows you to fill out a HUD-approved form, which you can request from your Service Representative, or you may provide a police report or court record, or you may have a professional person whom you consulted about the domestic violence, dating violence or stalking provide documentation. You may choose any of these three options for certification. You may, but cannot be required to, provide more than one form of certification. *You must deliver the certification in one of these three ways within 14 business days after your receipt of the owner, manager or housing authority's request for certification or you cannot claim protection under VAWA.*

4. **Confidentiality:** Information provided by you about an incident or incidents of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking involving you or a member of your household will be held by the owner, manager, or housing authority in

confidence and not shared without your consent, except that this information may be disclosed in an eviction proceeding or otherwise as necessary to meet the requirements of law.

**5. Removal of/Termination of Assistance to Perpetrator of Physical Violence:** An owner or manager may terminate the tenancy of and evict a tenant or other lawful occupant, and/or CHA may terminate assistance to a participant in the Section 8 program, who engages in criminal acts of physical violence against family members or others. This action may be taken against the individual alone, without evicting, terminating the tenancy of, removing, denying assistance to, or otherwise penalizing other household members.

**6. Moving to Another Location.** If you are otherwise in compliance with your lease and other Section 8 requirements, and you reasonably believe you must relocate to protect a member of your household from an imminent threat of harm by domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, CHA may issue a voucher to you to permit you to move (port) to another location even though you are breaking your lease when doing so. CHA may request the certification described above before issuing the voucher.

