

**HOLLY SPRINGS HOUSING AUTHORITY  
POLICY ON VIOLATION AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA)  
AND  
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005**

The VAWA prohibits the Holly Springs Housing Authority from evicting or removing assistance from certain persons (including members of the victim's immediate family) living in the HSHA developments if the asserted grounds for such action is an instance of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, as described in Section 3 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, and amended by the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA) of 2005.

The Holly Springs Housing Authority will accept certification from alleged victims in verifying this claim by a HSHA resident.

The VAWA provides "criminal activity directly relating to domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, engaged in by a member of tenant's household or any guest or other person under the tenant's control, shall not be cause for termination of the tenancy or occupancy rights, if the tenant or immediate family member of the tenant's family is the victim or threatened victim of that abuse." VAWA further provides that incidents of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking may not be construed either as serious or repeated violations of the lease by the victim of such violence or as good cause for terminating the tenancy or occupancy rights of the victim of such violence.

VAWA does not limit the HSHA authority to terminate the tenancy of any tenant if the HSHA can demonstrate an actual and imminent threat to other tenants or those employed at or providing service to the property.

When a tenant family is facing lease termination because of the actions of a tenant, household member, guest, or other person under the tenant's control and a tenant or immediate family member of the tenant's family claims that she or he is the victim of such actions and that the actions are related to domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, the HSHA will require the individual to submit documentation affirming that claim.

The documentation must include two elements:

A signed statement by the victim that provides the name of the perpetrator and certifies that the incidents in question are bona fide incidents of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking.

One of the following:

A police or court record documenting the actual or threatened abuse;

A statement signed by an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider; an attorney; a medical professional; or another knowledgeable professional from whom the victim has sought assistance in addressing the

actual or threatened abuse. The professional must attest under penalty of perjury that the incidents in question are bona fide incidents of abuse, and the victim must sign or attest to the statement.

The required certification and supporting documentation must be submitted to the HSHA within 14 business days after the individual claiming victim status receives a request for such certification. This 14-day deadline may be extended at the HSHA discretion. If the individual does not provide the required certification and supporting documentation within 14 business days, or the approved extension period, the HSHA may proceed with assistance termination.

The HSHA also reserves the right to waive these victim verification requirements and accept only a self-certification from the victim if the HSHA deems the victim's life to be in imminent danger.

In extreme circumstances when the HSHA can demonstrate an actual and imminent threat to other participants or those employed at or providing service to the property if the participant's (including the victim's) tenancy is not terminated, the HSHA will bypass the standard process and proceed with the immediate termination of the family's assistance.

The HSHA will request that a victim of the domestic violence described in this policy to provide evidence or certify to the HSHA that the incident or incidents of abuse are bona fide.

All information provided to the HSHA regarding domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, including the fact that an individual is a victim of such violence or stalking, must be retained in confidence and may neither be entered in

to any shared data base nor provided to any related entity, except to the extent that the disclosure (a) is requested or consented to by the individual in writing, (b) is required for use in an eviction proceeding, or (c) is otherwise required by applicable law.

The HSHA five-year and annual plan contains information regarding any goals, activities, objectives, policies, or programs of the HSHA that are intended to support assist victims of domestic violence described above.