



Arkansas Law

If you are a victim of domestic violence, the landlord shall not terminate, fail to renew your lease, refuse to enter into a lease or otherwise retaliate because of the domestic abuse.

At your expense and with the landlord's prior consent, the landlord may change the locks to your residence.

You may not waive your right to request law enforcement or emergency assistance.

Arkansas DV Protections require a court order showing abuse. The order must have been issued within the last 60 days.



If you believe you are a victim of housing discrimination, contact us at the telephone number below for assistance. Our staff will discuss the situation with you and help you decide what to do next.

When necessary, our staff can assist you in filing a complaint with the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or other administrative or judicial bodies.

Contact Us

Jason Auer, Fair Housing Director
Legal Aid of Arkansas
714 S. Main St.
Jonesboro, AR 72401
Telephone: 870.972.9224
Helpline: 1-800-9LAW-AID
www.arlegalaid.org

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A Fair Housing Guide for Domestic Violence

LEGAL AID OF ARKANSAS
FAIR HOUSING PROJECT



Housing and Domestic Violence

Victims of domestic violence are protected under fair housing laws when actions taken against them result from gender stereotypes or when housing rules or requirements have an unequal impact on victims of domestic violence. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) includes specific protections for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking in federally assisted housing.

Know Your Rights Under VAWA

You do not have to be married or living with the abuser to be covered under VAWA.

If you are applying for housing, you cannot be denied simply because you are a victim.

You cannot be evicted or lose your voucher based on violence against you.

Acts of violence against you cannot be “serious or repeated violations” of your lease or “good cause” for evicting you or ending your voucher.

VAWA applies only to tenants in certain assisted housing programs:

- Public Housing
- Section 8 Vouchers
- Project Based Section 8
- Section 202 Housing for the Elderly, or
- Section 811 housing for people with disabilities

Commonly Asked Questions

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

- If a member of your household uses violence against you, the housing authority or your landlord may evict the abuser alone, and let you and your family stay in the home.

What if I need to move to escape the abuse?

- If you have a Section 8 Voucher, VAWA states that the housing authority may permit you to move and keep your voucher, even if your lease has not ended. VAWA does not cover emergency moves for public housing tenants. You can still ask the housing authority to transfer you to another unit.

Do I have to provide proof of the abuse?

- The housing authority or your landlord may ask for information or “certification” showing that you are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking. They must give you at least 14 business days to provide proof of the violence. There are 3 ways you can show that you are a victim:
 - Complete a certification form
 - Statement from a third party. This can be from a victim service provider, medical professional, mental health professional or attorney. It must be signed by both you and the third party under penalty of perjury
 - Police, Court, or Administrative Record

Commonly Asked Questions

Can a housing provider share the information that I provide about the abuse with others?

- No. The housing 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.

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 landlord or housing authority must hold you to the same standard as other tenants.