

VAWA – PHA Policy

In determining whether a participant who is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking is an actual and imminent threat to other tenants or those employed at or providing service to a property, the PHA will consider the following, and any other relevant, factors:

Whether the threat is toward an employee or tenant other than the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking

Whether the threat is a physical danger beyond a speculative threat

Whether the threat is likely to happen within a short period of time

Whether the threat to other tenants or employees can be eliminated in some other way, such as by helping the victim to relocate to a confidential location

If the tenant wishes to contest the PHA's determination that he or she is an actual and imminent threat to other tenants or employees, the tenant may do so as part of the informal hearing.

Victim Documentation

PHA Policy

When a participant family is facing assistance termination because of actions of a participant, household member, guest, or other person under the participant's control and a participant or immediate family member of the participant'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 PHA will request in writing that the individual submit documentation affirming that claim. The written request will include explicit instructions on where, when and to whom the documentation must be submitted. It will also state the consequences for failure to submit the documentation by the deadline.

The documentation will consist of a completed and signed form HUD-50066 Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or Stalking. In lieu of the certification form, the PHA will accept either of the following forms of documentation:

A police or court record documenting the actual or threatened abuse

Documentation signed by a person who has assisted the victim in addressing domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, or the effects of such abuse. This person may be an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider; an attorney; or a medical or other knowledgeable professional. The person signing the documentation must attest under penalty of perjury to the person's belief that the incidents in question are bona fide incidents of abuse. The victim must also sign the documentation.

The PHA reserves the right to waive the documentation requirement if it determines that a statement or other corroborating evidence from the individual will suffice.

The individual claiming victim status must submit the requested documentation within 14 business days after the receipt of the PHA's written request or must request an extension within that time frame. The PHA may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for 10 business days.

If the individual provides the requested documentation within 14 business days, or any PHA approved extension, the PHA will reconsider its termination decision in light of the documentation.

If the individual does not provide the requested documentation within 14 business days, or any PHA-approved extension, the PHA will proceed with termination of the family's assistance in accordance with the applicable law, program regulations, and the policies in the PHA's plan.

Terminating the Assistance of a Domestic Violence Perpetrator

PHA Policy

The PHA will terminate assistance to a family member if the PHA determines that the family member has committed criminal acts of physical violence against other family members of others. This action will not affect the assistance of the remaining, non-culpable family members.

In making its decision, the PHA will consider all credible evidence, including, but not limited to, a signed certification (form 50066) or other documentation of abuse submitted to the PHA by the victim in accordance with the plan. The PHA will also consider the factors in the plan related to Criteria for Deciding to Terminate Assistance. Upon such consideration, the PHA may, on a case-by-case basis, choose not to terminate the assistance of the culpable family member.

If the PHA does terminate the assistance of the culpable family member, it will do so in accordance with the applicable law, HUD regulations, and the policies in the PHA's plan.

PHA Confidentiality Requirements

PHA Policy

If disclosure is required for use in an eviction proceeding or is otherwise required by applicable law, the PHA will inform the victim before disclosure occurs so that safety risks can be identified and addressed.