

The Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County:  
**THE FAIR HOUSING PROJECT**

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**FAIR HOUSING PROTECTIONS FOR  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS**

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**THE FACTS**

- In 2005, there were 120,386 reported incidents of domestic violence in Florida.
- In 2005, there were 6,416 reported incidents of domestic violence in Palm Beach County.
- Since most victims of domestic violence are women, women are more likely to be treated differently than men in the housing context.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Florida Law defines domestic violence as any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment or any other criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another.

Domestic violence can be emotional, sexual, physical, economical, or psychological in nature. The most common type of domestic violence is physical.

**FAIR HOUSING ACT**

The Fair Housing Act is a federal law that prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings, and in other housing-related transactions, based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status (including children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women, and people securing custody of children under the age of 18), and handicap (disability).

Additionally, Palm Beach County prohibits discrimination in housing based on sexual orientation, age, and marital status.

