

## HOUSING AUTHORITY OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY

### Emergency Transfer Plan for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking

#### Emergency Transfers

The Housing Authority of St. Louis County (HASLC) is concerned about the safety of its tenants, and such concern extends to tenants who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. In accordance with the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA),<sup>1</sup> HASLC allows tenants who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to request an emergency transfer from the tenant's current unit to another unit. The ability to request a transfer is available regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.<sup>2</sup> The ability of HASLC to honor such request for tenants currently receiving assistance, however, may depend upon a preliminary determination that the tenant is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and on whether HP has another dwelling unit that is available and is safe to offer the tenant for temporary or more permanent occupancy.

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<sup>1</sup> Despite the name of this law, VAWA protection is available to all victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

<sup>2</sup> Housing providers cannot discriminate on the basis of any protected characteristic, including race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability, or age. HUD-assisted and HUD-insured housing must be made available to all otherwise eligible individuals regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.

## **VAWA Emergency Transfer Plan**

This plan identifies tenants who are eligible for an emergency transfer, the documentation needed to request an emergency transfer, confidentiality protections, how an emergency transfer may occur, and guidance to tenants on safety and security. This plan is based on a model emergency transfer plan published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Federal agency that oversees that **Public Housing Program** is in compliance with VAWA.

### **Eligibility for Emergency Transfers**

A tenant who is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, as provided in HUD's regulations at 24 CFR part 5, subpart L is eligible for an emergency transfer, if: the tenant reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the tenant remains within the same unit. If the tenant is a victim of sexual assault, the tenant may also be eligible to transfer if the sexual assault occurred on the premises within the 90-calendar-day period preceding a request for an emergency transfer.

A tenant requesting an emergency transfer must expressly request the transfer in accordance with the procedures described in this plan.

Tenants who are not in good standing may still request an emergency transfer if they meet the eligibility requirements in this section.

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### **Emergency Transfer Request Documentation**

To request an emergency transfer, the tenant shall notify the management office and submit a written request for a transfer to site manager]. HASLC will provide reasonable accommodations to this policy for individuals with disabilities. The tenant's written request for an emergency transfer should include either:

1. A statement expressing that the tenant reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the tenant were to remain in the same dwelling unit assisted under HASLC's program; OR
2. A statement that the tenant was a sexual assault victim and that the sexual assault occurred on the premises during the 90-calendar-day period preceding the tenant's request for an emergency transfer.

### **Confidentiality**

HASLC will keep confidential any information that the tenant submits in requesting an emergency transfer, and information about the emergency transfer, unless the tenant gives HASLC written permission to release the information on a time limited basis, or disclosure of the information is required by law or required for use in an eviction proceeding or hearing regarding termination of assistance from the covered program. This includes keeping confidential the new location of the dwelling unit of the tenant, if one is provided, from the person(s) that committed

## **VAWA Emergency Transfer Plan**

an act(s) of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking against the tenant. See the **Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence Against Women Act For All Tenants** for more information about HASLC's responsibility to maintain the confidentiality of information related to incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

### **Emergency Transfer Timing and Availability**

HASLC cannot guarantee that a transfer request will be approved or how long it will take to process a transfer request. HASLC will, however, act as quickly as possible to move a tenant who is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to another unit, subject to availability and safety of a unit. If a tenant reasonably believes a proposed transfer would not be safe, the tenant may request a transfer to a different unit. If a unit is available, the transferred tenant must agree to abide by the terms and conditions that govern occupancy in the unit to which the tenant has been transferred. HASLC may be unable to transfer a tenant to a particular unit if the tenant has not or cannot establish eligibility for that unit.

If HASLC has no safe and available units for which a tenant who needs an emergency is eligible, HASLC will assist the tenant in identifying other housing providers who may have safe and available units to which the tenant could move. At the tenant's request, HASLC will also assist tenants in contacting the local organizations offering assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are attached to this plan.

## **VAWA Emergency Transfer Plan**

### **Safety and Security of Tenants**

Pending processing of the transfer and the actual transfer, if it is approved and occurs, the tenant is urged to take all reasonable precautions to be safe.

Tenants who are or have been victims of domestic violence are encouraged to contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233, or a local domestic violence shelter, for assistance in creating a safety plan. For persons with hearing impairments, that hotline can be accessed by calling 1-800-787-3224 (TTY).

Tenants who have been victims of sexual assault may call the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network's National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800-656-HOPE, or visit the online hotline at <https://ohl.rainn.org/online/>.

Tenants who are or have been victims of stalking seeking help may visit the National Center for Victims of Crime's Stalking Resource Center at <https://www.victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center>.

**Attachment:** Local organizations offering assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.



# St. Louis Domestic and Family Violence Council Resources for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence (St. Louis Metropolitan Area)

Home Page

## A. Police Assistance

(911 if emergency)

Non-emergency numbers:

- St. Louis County: (314) 815-8608 (weekday daytime hours); (314) 889-2341 (evenings, weekends, holidays)
- St. Louis City: (314) 444-0100 (Dists. 1 & 2); (314) 444-2500 (Dists. 3 & 4); (314) 444-0001 (Dists. 5 & 6)

## B. Order of Protection Offices/Information

1. Courthouse Offices (to obtain a Child/Adult Order of Protection or to get assistance when such orders are violated)
  - a. **St. Louis County** - St. Louis County Courthouse, 7900 Carondelet Ave., Clayton, MO - Plaza Level  
*Business Hours:* (Staff Member will answer).....(314) 615-4725  
 (Mon. - Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sat. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

Note: The Adult Abuse Office does not accept any filings for orders of protection after 4:00 p.m. during the work week.

*After Hours:* If you reside in a municipality in St. Louis County, call your local police department.

If no one there is able to assist you, call:

- The St. Louis County Police Department.....(314) 889-2341 or
- The Hazelwood Police Department.....(314) 838-5000
- Also:* St. Louis County Order of Protection Assistance Program (C.O.P.A.)..... (314) 615-3210
- St. Louis County Domestic Violence Court.....(314) 615-4642

- b. **St. Louis City** - St. Louis City Civil Courts Building, 10 N. Tucker Blvd., St. Louis, MO - 9th Fl. Rm. 901  
*Business Hours:* (Staff Member will answer).....(314) 622-4434  
 (M - F: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

*After Hours:* Call any Metropolitan Police Department Area Station for assistance.

*Also:* St. Louis City Order of Protection Assistance Program (C.O.P.A.).....(314) 621-4402

2. Missouri Victim Automatic Notification System (MOVANS).....(866) 5MOVANS  
[www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com)
3. Victim Address Confidentiality Program (Safe At Home).....(866) 509-1409  
[www.mosafeathome.com](http://www.mosafeathome.com)

## C. General Domestic and Sexual Violence Victim Assistance Hotlines/Websites

1. Hotlines
  - National Domestic Violence Hotline.....(800) 799-7233 / (800) 787-3224 (TTY)
  - Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (Safe Connections) Hotline:.....(314) 531-2003
  - Rape Crisis Line (St. Louis Regional Sexual Assault Center):.....(314) 531-7273
  - ALIVE Hotline.....(314) 993-2777
  - Safe Connections 24-Hour Crisis Helpline.....(314) 531-2003
  - Life Source Consultants Hotline.....(314) 524-0686
  - National Sexual Assault Hotline.....(800) 656-4673
  - National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline.....(866) 331-9474 / (866) 331-8453 (TTY)
  - Missouri Elder Abuse Hotline.....(800) 392-0210
  - Missouri Child Abuse Hotline.....(800) 392-3738
  - Youth Violence Prevention Hotline.....(800) 367-2543

- 2. Websites
- **St. Louis County Domestic Violence Court:**  
[www.STLOUISCO.COM/CIRCUITCOURT/DOMESTICVIOLENCECOURT](http://www.STLOUISCO.COM/CIRCUITCOURT/DOMESTICVIOLENCECOURT)
- **Missouri Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Violence:** [www.MOCADSV.ORG](http://www.MOCADSV.ORG)
- **Missouri Bar Association:** [www.MOBAR.ORG](http://www.MOBAR.ORG) - "Handbook for Survivors of DV"
- **Missouri Attorney General:** [www.ago.mo.gov/publications/domesticviolence](http://www.ago.mo.gov/publications/domesticviolence)
- **National Coalition against Domestic Violence:** [www.NCADV.ORG](http://www.NCADV.ORG)
- **American Bar Association:** [www.ABANET.ORG](http://www.ABANET.ORG) (Follow the "Commission on Domestic Violence" links)
- **National Network to End Domestic Violence:** [www.NNEDV.ORG](http://www.NNEDV.ORG)
- **National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild:** [www.nationalimmigrationproject.org](http://www.nationalimmigrationproject.org) (Click the "Domestic Violence" link)
- **Rainbow Domestic Violence (GLBT):** [www.rainbowdomesticviolence.itgo.com](http://www.rainbowdomesticviolence.itgo.com)

**D. Domestic Violence Shelters**

- **Alternatives to Living in Violent Environments (ALIVE).....(314) 993-7080 St. Louis County**  
[www.alivestl.org](http://www.alivestl.org).....  
**(800) 941-9144 Franklin County**
- **Bridgeway Women's Center.....(877) 946-6854**  
[www.bridgewaybh.com](http://www.bridgewaybh.com)
- **Kathy J. Weinman Shelter.....(314) 423-1117**  
[www.co-st-louis.mo.us/dhs/kjweinmanshelter.html](http://www.co-st-louis.mo.us/dhs/kjweinmanshelter.html)
- **St. Martha's Hall.....(314) 533-1313**  
[www.saintmarthas.org](http://www.saintmarthas.org)
- **The Women's Safehouse.....(314) 772-4535**  
[www.twsh.org](http://www.twsh.org)

**E. Domestic and Sexual Violence Victim Advocacy/Counseling Services**

- **A.C.C.E.S.S. (MERS/Goodwill) (Employment Services).....(314) 646-5845**  
[www.mersgoodwill.org](http://www.mersgoodwill.org)
- **Ailce's House.....(314) 839-4357**
- **AWARE (Barnes-Jewish Hospital) (for BJC hospital patients only).....(314) 362-9273**  
[www.barnesjewish.org](http://www.barnesjewish.org)
- **Crime Victim Advocacy Center.....(314) 652-3623 Hotline**  
[www.supportvictims.org](http://www.supportvictims.org)
- **The LEAD Institute (Leadership through Education & Advocacy for the Deaf).....(800) 380-3323**  
[www.deaflead.org](http://www.deaflead.org) *Deafline Missouri (636) 219-9880; (573) 445-5005 Office*
- **Life Source Consultants.....(314) 524-0686 Hotline**  
[www.lifesourceconsultants.org](http://www.lifesourceconsultants.org).....(314) 524-4130 Office
- **Lydia's House.....(314) 771-4411**  
[www.lydiashouse.org](http://www.lydiashouse.org)
- **Redevelopment Opportunites for Women (Row).....(314) 588-8300**  
[www.row-stl.org](http://www.row-stl.org)
- **Safe Connections.....(314) 531-2003 Hotline**  
[www.safeconnections.org](http://www.safeconnections.org).....(314) 646-7500 Office
- **South Asian Women Empowerment Region Association (SAWERA).....(877) 729-3722 Hotline**  
[www.sawera.org](http://www.sawera.org).....(314) 435-3722 Office
- **Woman's Place.....(314) 646-4848**  
[www.womansplacesl.org](http://www.womansplacesl.org)
- **Women of Grace.....(314) 652-2572 Hotline**  
[www.womenofgrace.com](http://www.womenofgrace.com).....(314) 652-9196 Office
- **YWCA St. Louis Regional Sexual Assault Center.....(314) 531-RAPE Hotline**  
[www.ywca.org](http://www.ywca.org).....(314) 726-6665 Office

**F. Domestic and Sexual Violence Legal Resources**

- **Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry.....(314) 977-3993**  
[www.ccsl.org](http://www.ccsl.org)
- **Lasting Solutions/Legal Services of Eastern Missouri.....(314) 534-4200 Office**  
[www.lsem.org](http://www.lsem.org) (800) 444-0514
- **Legal Advocates for Abused Women (LAAW) of the Crime Victim Advocacy Center (CVAC).....(314) 664-6699**  
[www.laawstl.org](http://www.laawstl.org)

- **St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Victim Services**.....(314) 622-4373  
[www.circuitattorney.org](http://www.circuitattorney.org)
- **St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Victim Services Division**.....(314) 615-4872  
[www.stlouiscopa.com](http://www.stlouiscopa.com)
- **St. Louis University School of Law, Legal Clinic**.....(314) 977-2778  
[www.law.slu.edu/academics/clinics/civil-advocacy-clinics](http://www.law.slu.edu/academics/clinics/civil-advocacy-clinics)
- **Washington University School of Law, Civil Justice Clinic**.....(314) 935-7238  
[www.law.wustl.edu/civiljustice](http://www.law.wustl.edu/civiljustice)