

SIRHA

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NOTICE TO OWNERS, MANAGERS AND PARTICIPANTS OF SECTION 8

The Violence Against Women Act of 2005 provides protections for persons that are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking. The Act covers all victims of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking and is not gender specific.

Areas of protection:

Denial of Admission – Our Agency cannot deny admission to otherwise qualified applicants simply because they are, or have been, victims of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking.

Termination of Assistance – The Act affects both our Agency and Property Owners participating in the Section 8 Housing Programs. Our Agency cannot terminate assistance and Property Owners cannot terminate tenancy simply because the participant(s) are, or have been, victims of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking. For additional information see public law 109-162 (signed into law January 5, 2006) Section 606 Amendments to the Low-Income Voucher Program.

As a result of the Violence Against Women Act the Southern Iowa Regional Housing Authority (SIRHA) will require certain verifications to support any claim of victim status. These verifications will include but is not limited to:

- Notifying SIRHA in writing of victim status within fourteen (14) business days from the date of Notice of Denial or Termination of Assistance.
- The domestic violence must be directly related to the reason for denial or termination of assistance.
- Participants will be required to complete the HUD form 50066, Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or Stalking to certify victim status.
- Supporting documentation verifying the dates and relation to the denial or termination will be required.
- Sufficiency of the verifications is at the sole discretion of SIRHA.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Any information or documentation that a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking provides to this Agency – including the simple fact that se or he is a victim of abuse – must be kept in confidence unless the victim requests or consents to the disclosure in writing, the disclosure is required for use in an eviction proceeding, or the disclosure is otherwise required by applicable law.

Owners and managers – For further information and guidance on your responsibilities under this law, you are encouraged to access VAWA via the Internet at the following Website address:

[Http://www.gpoaccess.gov/plaws/index.html](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/plaws/index.html)