

Raleigh Housing Authority
Emergency Transfer Plan for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual
Assault, or Stalking

Emergency Transfers

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

This plan identifies residents 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 residents on safety and security. This plan is based on a model

¹ 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.

² 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.

emergency transfer plan published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Federal agency that oversees that Raleigh Housing Authority complies with VAWA.

Eligibility for Emergency Transfers

A resident 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 resident reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the resident remains within the same unit. If the resident is a victim of sexual assault, the resident 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 resident requesting an emergency transfer must expressly request the transfer in accordance with the procedures described in this plan.

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

Emergency Transfer Request Documentation

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

1. A statement expressing that the resident reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the resident were to remain in the same dwelling unit assisted under RHA's program; OR

2. A statement that the resident was a sexual assault victim and that the sexual assault occurred on the premises during the 90-calendar-day period preceding the resident's request for an emergency transfer.

Confidentiality

RHA will keep confidential any information that the resident submits in requesting an emergency transfer, and information about the emergency transfer, unless the resident gives RHA 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 resident, if one is provided, from the person(s) that committed an act(s) of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking against the resident. See the Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence Against Women Act For All Residents for more information about RHA'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

RHA cannot guarantee that a transfer request will be approved or how long it will take to process a transfer request. However, RHA will act as quickly as possible to move a resident 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 resident reasonably believes a proposed transfer would not be safe, the resident may request a transfer to a different unit. If a unit is available, the transferred resident must agree to abide by the terms and conditions that govern occupancy in the

unit to which the resident has been transferred. RHA may be unable to transfer a resident to a particular unit if the resident has not or cannot establish eligibility for that unit.

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

Safety and Security of Residents

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

Residents 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).

Residents 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/>.

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

Attachment: *Organizations assisting victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.*

Organizations Assisting Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking

RESOURCES:

For help regarding an abusive relationship, you may call the **National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 or, for persons with hearing impairments, 1-800-787-3224 (TTY)**. You may also contact:

InterAct's Family Safety & Empowerment Center

1012 Oberlin Road

Raleigh, NC 27605

Main Office: 919-828-7501

24 HOUR CRISIS LINES**Domestic Violence**

919-828-7740

866-291-0855 toll-free

Wake County Courthouse Domestic Violence Unit**316 Fayetteville St****Raleigh, NC 27602**

919-828-3067

866-291-0854 (toll-free)

For help regarding stalking, you contact the **National Center for Victims of Crime's** Stalking Resource Center at <https://www.victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center>.

For help regarding sexual assault, you may contact

Sexual Assault

919-828-3005

866-291-0853 (toll-free)

Victims of stalking seeking help may contact the National Center for Victims of Crime's stalking resource center at <http://victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center/stalking-information>.