



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA) OVERVIEW FOR HOUSING PROVIDERS

“A Home for Everyone” Conference

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End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin

Introductions

- Adrienne Roach
- Policy and Research Program Director
- End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin: the WI Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Video from Safe Housing Partnerships

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=52&v=gVnwGFqyEcQ

More Introductions

- Who works regularly with survivors of DV, SA, Dating Violence, Stalking, or Human Trafficking?
- What is your experience with the Violence Against Women Act?
- How do you believe it's relevant to the provision of housing services?

Presentation Objectives

- Understand why the Violence Against Women Act is important and to whom it applies.
- Identify VAWA provisions that are particularly relevant to housing service providers.
- Understand VAWA Confidentiality Rules and why they are important.
- Identify how VAWA Confidentiality rules impact collaboration between housing providers and DV service providers
- Name strategies to recognize and adhere to VAWA requirements and develop higher quality partnerships among service providers

What is VAWA?



- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
- Passed in 1994, with subsequent reauthorizations in 2000, 2005 and 2013

Why is VAWA Important?

- Key funding source for systems work to address domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, etc.
- Confidentiality rules to ensure victims privacy and protection
- Housing Provisions included in the most recent 2013 reauthorization

Who is covered by VAWA?

- Programs who receive VAWA funding
- Covered Housing Programs – Most programs who receive federal funding

Survivor Scenario

- Fictional Case: Susie is a case worker, and a friend of yours. Her partner is a police officer, they have two kids (one 3, one 5) and a dog.
- Consider Susie's situation as we discuss why VAWA and VAWA's housing provisions are important.

VAWA Housing Provisions: Non-discrimination



VAWA Housing Provisions: Lease Terms and Eviction



VAWA Housing Provisions: Criminal Activity Related to DV



VAWA Housing Provisions: Lease Bifurcation



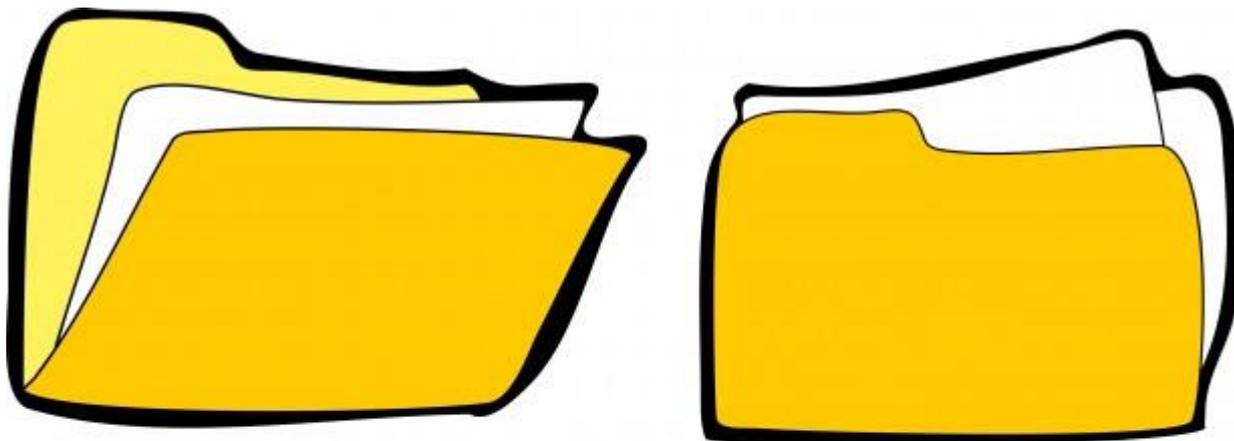
VAWA Housing Provisions: Self Certification and VAWA Notice

NO THIRD-PARTY VERIFICATION

HOUSING PARTICIPANT NOTICE

Appendix II: (Sample Notice of Rights and Obligations)
<https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/17-08PIHN.PDF>

CONFIDENTIALITY



Confidentiality Exercise

- What is your name?
- What is your age?
- How many times have you gone to the ER in the last 6 months?
- Does anyone force or trick you to do things you do not want to do?
- Do you ever do things that would be considered “risky”?
- Do you have any chronic health issues with your liver, kidneys or heart?
- Are there any medications that your doctor said you should be taking that, for whatever reason, you are not taking?
- Is there any person, past landlord, business, bookie, dealer, or government group like the IRS that thinks you owe them money?

Reflection and Discussion

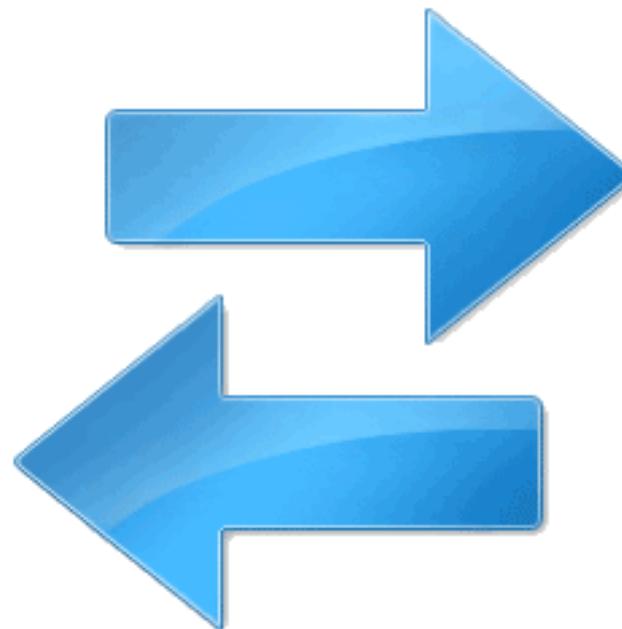
- How did these questions make you feel? Were you willing to share?
- What if access to service was contingent upon you answering these questions?
- What if you just left an abusive relationship and you are worried that your abuser may retaliate against you?

Confidentiality Provisions

- Victim's Information is Confidential from everyone – barring court order
- Release of Information and Time-Limited (What does time-limited mean?)
- Why is it important?
- **What information is “personally-identifiable”?**

Emergency Transfers

- Why do housing providers need an emergency transfer policy?
 - Safety
 - Comfortable Space to Heal



VAWA Transitional Housing Funding

- Transitional Housing is still a critical resource for some survivors
- Often survivors who have heightened safety concerns and prefer easy access to services prefer transitional housing, among other reasons



VAWA 2019 Update

- Current Housing components expand on 2013 housing protections
- H.R. 1585 Passed the House on April 4th
- Senate has yet to take it up

How Does VAWA Impact Collaboration

- Confidentiality and DV Service Providers
- Rules to follow – but significant benefits to collaboration
- Suggestion: Make connections between service providers – participate in local coalition
- Develop an MOU between providers to delineate where you can and cannot collaborate and commit to cross-training, referrals, and consultation

QUESTIONS?



Sources and Helpful Resources

- National Housing Law Project
- Safe Housing Partnerships
- National Alliance for Safe Housing
- National Network to End Domestic Violence
- Futures Without Violence
- End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin

Sources and Helpful Resources on VAWA

- <https://www.nhlp.org/initiatives/protections-for-survivors-of-domestic-and-sexual-violence/>
- <https://safehousingpartnerships.org/>
- <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4718/federal-register-notice-proposed-rule-violence-against-women-act-2013-vawa-2013/>
- <https://www.nhlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/2017-DV-State-and-Local-Housing-Laws-Compendium.pdf>
- <https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/17-08PIHN.PDF>
- https://www.wiboscoc.org/uploads/3/7/2/4/37244219/appendix_i_vi-spdat_2.0.pdf

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www.endabusewi.org



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