

THE LOUISIANA VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Helps keep survivors of domestic violence safe and in their homes.



What it means for you:

1. Anyone in need of emergency assistance can contact police without penalty.

You can no longer be penalized or evicted for calling emergency assistance when you need it, even if your lease has a 'zero tolerance' policy for police visits or similar clause.

2. Survivors cannot be evicted because of the violence of their abuser.

This law protects survivors not only from court evictions, but also from other types of evictions like posting a notice to vacate, or refusing to renew a month-to-month lease. The landlord CAN evict an abuser, while allowing the survivor to take over the lease.



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3. Survivors can no longer be denied housing solely on the basis of past abuse.

If a landlord or leasing agent knows that you have experienced domestic violence (for example, if you list a domestic violence shelter as a previous residence on a housing application) he or she can NOT use that as reason to deny your application.

4. Survivors can now terminate a lease early and move if they need to.

Survivors seeking to flee an abuser can leave when they need to, without forfeiting a deposit or being penalized for a move that may be necessary to ensure their safety.

These protections generally apply to buildings with six or more units; however, if you live in a building with fewer than six units, other laws like the Fair Housing Act may still protect you. The Fair Housing Act makes it illegal for someone to deny you housing based on your race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, or familial status.

If you have any questions about the Louisiana Violence Against Women Act, or if you have trouble **finding, keeping, or leaving** your apartment because of abuse, **please call the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center at (504) 596-2100.**

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Any opinion, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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