

About Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida (CLSMF)

The mission of CLSMF is to provide access to justice through high quality legal assistance to low-income persons.

CLSMF is a nonprofit legal aid organization which provides free legal assistance to low-income people with civil legal problems in twelve counties across Central Florida. Since 1966, dedicated CLSMF lawyers, paralegals, legal assistants and advocates have worked diligently to solve civil legal problems for people facing life-changing situations, such as domestic violence, unlawful eviction, or the loss of veterans' health or public benefits. We are committed to delivering the highest quality legal aid, with dignity and respect, for those who are seeking access to justice.

**We do not provide legal assistance in criminal or traffic matters*

This brochure is for general education only. It is not intended to be used to solve individual problems. If you have specific questions, see an attorney. CLSMF offices are listed on the back in this brochure.



COMMUNITY
LEGAL SERVICES
of MID-FLORIDA



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***BREVARD:** 1-866-469-7444

CITRUS & SUMTER

106 N. Osceola Avenue, Inverness, FL 34450

(352) 726-6592 — CITRUS

1-800-984-2918— SUMTER

FLAGLER: 1-800-405-1417

HERNANDO: 1-866-801-5566

LAKE: (352) 343-6351

226 West Main Street, Tavares, FL 32778

MARION: (352) 629-6257

1610 SE 36th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471

***ORANGE** (407) 841-7777

122 E. Colonial Drive, Suite 200, Orlando, FL 32801

OSCEOLA: (407) 933-1791

800 North Main Street, Kissimmee, FL 34744

PUTNAM: (386) 385-0928

216 S. 6th Street, Palatka, FL 32177

***SEMINOLE:** (407) 322-6673

315 Magnolia Avenue, Sanford, FL 32771

VOLUSIA : (386) 258-5600

128 Orange Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Client toll-free number: 1-800-363-2357

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: (386)523-9181

**Certain legal services not offered*

info@clsmf.org

Apply for help online at:

www.clsmf.org



Housing Rights for Domestic Violence Survivors



Frequently Asked Questions about your rights under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) 2013

1. What does VAWA 2013 do?

It protects survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking who receive Section 8 housing vouchers or live in public housing or other federally subsidized housing from being evicted because of the violence.

2. Who is protected by VAWA 2013?

Individuals and their immediate family members who live in public housing or receive housing vouchers (section 8) are covered. Individuals living in other types of housing may be entitled to similar protections under the Fair Housing Act.

3. What is an illegal eviction under VAWA 2013?

Incidents of violence cannot be used as a reason to evict or end voucher assistance. VAWA 2005 says this is NOT “good cause” or a “serious violation of the lease.”

For example: the landlord or housing authority cannot evict you, if you are the VICTIM, because the fight was too loud or the police were called.

4. Does this mean that a domestic violence victim can never be evicted?

NO. If the VICTIM engages in criminal activity or commits a lease violation not related to the domestic violence, he or she can be evicted.

5. Can my abuser be evicted?

YES. VAWA 2005 allows the housing authority or landlord to “split” a lease and evict the abuser only.

6. What can I do if I think I am being illegally evicted for being the victim of Domestic Violence?

First, contact your local Legal Aid or Legal Services office to see if they can assist you. The agency listed on the back of this brochure can direct you. Tell the legal aid/legal services office that you are the victim of domestic violence and you think that is why you are being evicted.

7. Can a landlord ask for proof?

YES, the landlord or housing authority can ask for proof to show that you are the victim of domestic violence and that you are seeking protection under VAWA 2013. The landlord is required to keep this information confidential unless victim consents, it is required for use in eviction, or otherwise required by law.

Types of proof are a police report, an injunction, or a statement from a medical professional, attorney who is helping you or victim service provider. An injunction or a police report is NOT required to be protected under VAWA 2013.

8. Can my application be rejected because I am the victim of domestic violence?

NO, VAWA specifically states that a person cannot be denied access to Section 8 Vouchers, public housing or other federally subsidized housing because they are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking. However, you still must meet all other requirements.

If you are the victim of domestic violence and need assistance you can reach the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence Hotline at the following numbers. You will be directly connected with the program closest to you.

Hotline Number: 1-800-500-1119

TTY Number: 1-800-621-4202

The information you share will be completely confidential.