

Additional VAWA Guidance Issued

On June 30, 2017, the Office of Multifamily Housing issued [Notice H 2017-05](#), “Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Reauthorization Act of 2013 – Additional Guidance for Multifamily Owners and Management Agents”. The Notice does not change our current understanding of the Final Rule. However, inclusion of multiple examples provides clarification about HUD's requirements. It should be used in conjunction with the final rule and includes the following critical components:

- **Continuation of the core protections** across all multifamily housing programs, ensuring survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking are not denied assistance as an applicant; are not evicted or have assistance terminated due to having been a victim, or for being affiliated with a victim.
- **Emergency transfers** – Emergency transfer provisions of the final rule became effective June 14, 2017. The Notice provides more detailed guidance on developing an emergency transfer plan and facilitating internal and external emergency transfers.
- **Protections against adverse effects of abuse** – Domestic violence can often have negative economic consequences on a survivor, such as poor credit and/or rental history. The Notice discusses how owners and agents (O/As) should take such adverse factors into consideration, to avoid denying tenancy or occupancy rights based solely on adverse factors resulting from domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
- **Documentation and timing**– The Notice provides details on types of documentation that may be required to request VAWA protections and emergency transfers, as well as the certification option that may minimize possible barriers to obtaining third-party documentation. The Notice also discusses reasonable timeframes for applicants or tenants to provide requested documentation.

The Notice did not include a new VAWA Addendum but does indicate that a new Addendum will be released soon. When the new Addendum is released, OAs will be responsible for providing existing residents and new residents with the new form.

In the interim, OAs should continue to use the current 91067 available on HUDClips. Please note that the Addendum expires on June 30. Owner/agents have the option to 1) continue to use the existing form as is or 2) use the existing form yet remove the expiration date when the form is produced using site software.

The Notice includes Appendix 1 - Items to Consider When Developing VAWA Policies. This Appendix should be reviewed to make sure you have considered all of the aspects of implementing a comprehensive VAWA policy.

Translated VAWA forms HUD-5380, 5381, 5382, and 5383 are posted on [HUDClips](#). Form HUD-91066 is obsolete and removed from HUDClips. Form HUD-91067 is in the process of being revised, refer to the Notice for guidance.

VAWA FAQs are being drafted and will be provided soon. To send HUD your questions, please email: carissa.l.janis@hud.gov.