U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
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HUD-5382 CERTIFICATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING
CONCORD HOUSING AUTHORITY

34 Everett Street, Concord, MA 01742 • Main: 978-369-8435 • www.concordha.org

Housing Programs Administered by CHA: Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV) – 24 CFR Part 982, and Section 8 Project-Based Voucher Program (PBV) – 24 CFR Part 983

CHA VAWA Contact / Coordinator: Jennifer Polito, Executive Director • 978-369-8435 • jpolito@concordha.org

Confidentiality Note: Any personal information you share in this form will be maintained by your covered housing provider according to the confidentiality provisions below.

Purpose of Form: If you are a tenant of or applicant for housing assisted under a covered housing program, or if you are applying for or receiving transitional housing or rental assistance under a covered housing program, and ask for protection under the Violence Against Women Act ("VAWA"), you may use this form to comply with a covered housing provider's request for written documentation of your status as a "victim". This form is accompanied by a "Notice of Occupancy Rights Under the Violence Against Women Act," Form HUD-5380.

VAWA protects individuals and families regardless of a victim's age, sex, or marital status.

You are not expected **and cannot be asked or required** to claim, document, or prove victim status or VAWA violence/abuse other than as stated in "Notice of Occupancy Rights Under the Violence Against Women Act," Form HUD-5380.

This form is **one of your available options** for responding to a covered housing provider's written request for documentation of victim status or the incident(s) of VAWA violence/abuse. If you choose, you may submit one of the types of third-party documentation described in Form HUD-5380, in the section titled, "What do I need to document that I am a victim?". Your covered housing provider must give you at least 14 business days (weekends and holidays do not count) to respond to their written request for this documentation.

Will my information be kept confidential? Whenever you ask for or about VAWA protections, your covered housing provider must keep any information you provide about the VAWA violence/abuse or the fact you (or a household member) are a victim, including the information on this form, strictly confidential. This information should be securely and separately kept from your other tenant files. This information can only be accessed by an employee/agent of your covered housing provider if (1) access is required for a specific reason, (2) your covered housing provider explicitly authorizes that person's access for that reason, **and** (3) the authorization complies with applicable law. This information will not be given to anyone else or put in a database shared with anyone else, unless your covered housing provider (1) gets your written permission to do so for a limited time, (2) is required to do so as part of an eviction or termination hearing, **or** (3) is required to do so by law.

In addition, your covered housing provider must keep your address strictly confidential to ensure that it is not disclosed to a person who committed or threatened to commit VAWA violence/abuse against you (or a household member).

What if I require this information in a language other than English? To read this in Spanish or another language, please contact **the Concord Housing Authority, 34 Everett Street, Concord, MA 01742, Main: 978-369-8435, or Jennifer Polito, Executive Director, at 978-369-8435 (jpolito@concordha.org)** or go to **www.concordha.org**. You can read translated VAWA forms at https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/administration/hudclips/forms/hud5a#4. If you speak or read in a language other than English, your covered housing provider must give you language assistance regarding your VAWA protections (for example, oral interpretation and/or written translation).

Can I request a reasonable accommodation? If you have a disability, your covered housing provider must provide reasonable accommodations to rules, policies, practices, or services that may be necessary to allow you to equally benefit from VAWA protections (for example, giving you more time to submit documents or assistance with filling out forms). You may request a reasonable accommodation at any time, even for the first time during an eviction. If a provider is denying a specific reasonable accommodation because it is not reasonable, your covered housing provider must first engage in the interactive process with you to identify possible alternative accommodations. Your covered housing provider must also ensure effective communication with individuals with disabilities.

Need further help? For additional information on VAWA and to find help in your area, visit https://www.hud.gov/vawa. To speak with a housing advocate, you may contact **Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS) at 617-371-1234 (www.gbls.org), MetroWest Legal Services at 508-620-1830 (www.mwlegal.org), or the Harvard Legal Services Center Housing Law Clinic at 617-390-2500. For 24/7 survivor advocacy, call REACH Beyond Domestic Violence at 1-800-899-4000. See the local VAWA Resources list at the end of this form for additional hotlines and survivor services serving Concord, MA and the surrounding Middlesex County area.**

TO BE COMPLETED BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING

1. **Name(s) of victim(s):** _____

2. **Your name** (*if different from victim's*)**:** _____

3. **Name(s) of other member(s) of the household:** _____

   _____

4. **Name of the perpetrator** *(if known and can be safely disclosed)***:** _____

5. **What is the safest and most secure way to contact you? (You may choose more than one.)**

   If any contact information changes or is no longer a safe contact method, notify your covered housing provider.

   ☐ Phone Phone Number: _____

   Safe to receive a voicemail: ☐ Yes ☐ No

   ☐ E-mail E-mail Address: _____

   Safe to receive an email: ☐ Yes ☐ No

   ☐ Mail Mailing Address: _____

   Safe to receive mail from your housing provider: ☐ Yes ☐ No

   ☐ Other Please List: _____

6. **Anything else your housing provider should know to safely communicate with you?**

   _____

   _____

_____

_____

_____

Applicable definitions of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking:

Domestic violence includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who lives with or has lived with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.

Spouse or intimate partner of the victim includes a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim, as determined by the length of the relationship, the type of the relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

Dating violence means violence committed by a person:

(1) Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; **and**

(2) Where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors: (i) The length of the relationship; (ii) The type of relationship; and (iii) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

Sexual assault means any nonconsensual sexual act proscribed by Federal, tribal, or State law, including when the victim lacks capacity to consent.

Stalking means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to:

(1) Fear for the person's individual safety or the safety of others **or**

(2) Suffer substantial emotional distress.

Certification of Applicant or Tenant: By signing below, I am certifying that the information provided on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and recollection, and that one or more members of my household is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking as described in the applicable definitions above.

_____ _____

Signature **Date**

LOCAL VAWA RESOURCES – CONCORD, MA AND SURROUNDING AREA (CENTRAL MIDDLESEX COUNTY)

If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

Crisis Hotlines (24/7):

• **Domestic Violence Services Network, Inc. (DVSN)** (Concord-based; serves Concord, Carlisle, Lincoln, Sudbury, and surrounding central Middlesex communities) – 24/7 Toll-Free Help Line: 1-888-399-6111 • Office: 978-318-3421 • www.dvsn.org

• **SafeLink – Massachusetts Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline** – 1-877-785-2020 (TTY 1-877-521-2601)

• **Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC)** – Sexual Assault 24/7 Hotline: 1-800-841-8371 • www.barcc.org

• **National Domestic Violence Hotline** – 1-800-799-7233 (SAFE) • Text "START" to 88788 • www.thehotline.org

• **National Sexual Assault Hotline (RAINN)** – 1-800-656-4673 (HOPE) • www.rainn.org

Shelter, Counseling & Survivor Services:

• **REACH Beyond Domestic Violence** (Waltham) – Emergency shelter, safety planning, counseling, and legal advocacy; serves Concord and the broader Middlesex County area • 781-891-0724 (business) • 1-800-899-4000 (24/7 hotline) • www.reachma.org

• **RESPOND, Inc.** (Somerville) – Shelter and survivor advocacy • 617-623-5900 (24-hour hotline) • www.respondinc.org

• **Casa Myrna** (Boston) – Shelter and bilingual advocacy • 1-800-992-2600 (SafeLink) • www.casamyrna.org

• **Transition House** (Cambridge) – Shelter, counseling, youth programs • 617-661-7203 (hotline) • www.transitionhouse.org

Legal Aid (free/low-cost civil legal help for survivors):

• **Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS)** – Housing and family law for survivors • 617-371-1234 • www.gbls.org

• **Harvard Legal Services Center Housing Law Clinic** – Jamaica Plain • 617-390-2500 • www.legalservicescenter.org

• **MetroWest Legal Services** (Framingham) – 508-620-1830 • www.mwlegal.org

Law Enforcement & District Attorney:

• **Concord Police Department** – 219 Walden Street, Concord, MA 01742 • Emergency: 911 • Business: 978-318-3400 • Anonymous Tip Line: 978-318-3407 • www.concordma.gov/250/Police (Concord PD partners with DVSN on domestic violence response)

• **Middlesex County District Attorney – Victim Witness Services** – 781-897-8300 • www.middlesexda.com/victim-services

HUD Fair Housing & VAWA Rights Violation Complaints:

• **HUD FHEO Region 1 – Boston Regional Office** – Federal Building, 10 Causeway St., Room 553, Boston, MA 02222 • 617-994-8300 • 1-800-827-5005 • TTY 1-800-877-8339 • www.hud.gov/VAWA

Massachusetts Protections (In Addition to VAWA):
Under Massachusetts law (M.G.L. c. 186, §§ 24–29), tenants who are victims of domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, or stalking have additional rights, including the right to terminate a lease early with written notice and the right to request a change of locks at their own expense. Ask Jennifer Polito, CHA Executive Director (978-369-8435 or jpolito@concordha.org), for more information.

Public Reporting Burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per response. This includes the time for collecting, reviewing, and reporting. Comments concerning the accuracy of this burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing this burden can be sent to the Reports Management Officer, QDAM, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20410. Housing providers in programs covered by VAWA may request certification that the applicant or tenant is a victim of VAWA violence/abuse. A Federal agency may not collect this information, and you are not required to complete this form, unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget control number.