

SAFE HOME SOLUTIONS FOR SURVIVORS

TIP:
It's sometimes hard to know what the best next step is to protect yourself and your family. Counselors are available to talk through your options and create a safety plan. Call the DV hotline (877-863-6338) or speak to a domestic violence advocate at Sarah's Inn, Family Rescue, or MFS by calling 708-689-3422.

Do you feel unsafe in your housing due to sexual or domestic violence?

Yes

No, not at this time

If you are worried about your safety, you can call the DV hotline (877-863-6338) or speak to local DV advocates at Sarah's Inn, Family Rescue, or MFS by calling 708-689-3422.

Is it safer for you to stay in your home or leave?

Leave

Stay

Do you live in subsidized housing?

Yes

Your apartment is covered by the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 ("VAWA"), which permits you to transfer your subsidy on an emergency basis. Please contact Legal Aid Chicago to assess your options for transferring your subsidy.

NOTE: Under VAWA, your tenancy cannot be terminated based on the violence you experience.

Do you have an order of protection (OP)?

No

Only you can decide whether or not you should file for an OP. If you decide to file for an OP, you can ask for exclusive possession of your home and belongings.

To file for an OP during the COVID-19 crisis, you can contact the Ascend Justice hotline (312-239-0413) for assistance with obtaining an emergency OP remotely. You can also go to the Domestic Violence Courthouse located at 555 W. Harrison, Chicago, IL. While the COVID-19 crisis continues, you can call a hotline once you arrive at the courthouse to seek assistance in filling out a petition for an emergency OP.

NOTE: If you decide not to seek an order of protection, you can call the police if you feel unsafe.

Yes, I have an emergency OP (next court date in 21 days*)

*The duration of your emergency OP could be affected during the COVID-19 crisis.

You are eligible under the Safe Homes Act to have your locks changed if you have a written lease agreement and the perpetrator of violence is not on it.

NOTE: If you have an oral lease or the perpetrator of violence is on the lease, you will need a plenary OP to change the locks. Call Legal Aid Chicago for advice.

Yes, I have a plenary OP (1-2 years)

You are eligible under the Safe Homes Act to have your locks changed. Ask your landlord in writing to change the locks and keep a record of your communications.

TIP: If your landlord doesn't change the locks within 48 hours, you can change them yourself and give your landlord a copy of the keys.

No

I rent

You are eligible to terminate your lease under the Illinois Safe Homes Act if you are under a credible or imminent threat of sexual or domestic violence, or if you have experienced sexual violence in your unit in the past 60 days.

NOTE: Call Legal Aid Chicago for assistance in terminating your lease.

I have my own home

There may be options to preserve your interest in the home. Once you are in a safe place, you should call Legal Aid Chicago to talk about options for protecting your home.

I am homeless

You can call the Coordinated Entry Call Center (312-361-1707) to complete a housing assessment or call 311 to request transportation to a shelter.



For further assistance, call Legal Aid Chicago at 312-341-1070



You can also apply for help online at illinoislegalaid.org