

Biloxi Housing Authority

Emergency Transfer Plan for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking

Emergency Transfers

The **Biloxi Housing Authority (BHA)** is concerned about the safety of its tenants, and such concern extends to tenants who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. In accordance with the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the (BHA) allows tenants who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to request an emergency transfer from the tenant's current unit to another unit. The ability to request a transfer is available regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation. The ability of the (BHA) to honor such request for tenants currently receiving assistance, however, may depend upon a preliminary determination that the tenant is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and on whether (BHA) has another dwelling unit that is available and is safe to offer the tenant for temporary or more permanent occupancy.

This plan identifies tenants who are eligible for an emergency transfer, the documentation needed to request an emergency transfer, confidentiality protections, how an emergency transfer may occur, and guidance to tenants on safety and security. This plan is based on a model emergency transfer plan published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Federal agency that oversees that **Section 8 Project Based (PBV) and Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Tenant Based (TBV) programs** are in compliance with VAWA.

Eligibility for Emergency Transfers

A tenant who is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, as provided in HUD's regulations at 24 CFR part 5, subpart L is eligible for an emergency transfer, if: the tenant reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the tenant remains within the same unit. If the tenant is a victim of sexual assault, the tenant may also be eligible to transfer if the sexual assault occurred on the premises within the 90-calendar-day period preceding a request for an emergency transfer.

A tenant requesting an emergency transfer must expressly request the transfer in accordance with the procedures described in this plan.

Tenants who are not in good standing may still request an emergency transfer if they meet the eligibility requirements in this section.

Emergency Transfer Request Documentation

To request an emergency transfer, the tenant shall notify The Biloxi Housing Authority (BHA) management office and submit a written request for a transfer to **330 Benachi Avenue, Biloxi, MS 39530, Attention: Property Manager**. The (BHA) will provide reasonable accommodations to this policy for individuals with disabilities. The tenant's written request for an emergency transfer should include either:

1. A statement expressing that the tenant reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the tenant were to remain in the same dwelling unit assisted under the (BHA) program; OR

2. A statement that the tenant was a sexual assault victim and that the sexual assault occurred on the premises during the 90-calendar-day period preceding the tenant's request for an emergency transfer.

Confidentiality

The Biloxi Housing Authority (BHA) will keep confidential any information that the tenant submits in requesting an emergency transfer, and information about the emergency transfer, unless the tenant gives (BHA) written permission to release the information on a time limited basis, or disclosure of the information is required by law or required for use in an eviction proceeding or hearing regarding termination of assistance from the covered program. This includes keeping confidential the new location of the dwelling unit of the tenant, if one is provided, from the person(s) that committed an act(s) of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking against the tenant. See the Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence Against Women Act For All Tenants for more information about The Biloxi Housing Authority's (BHA) responsibility to maintain the confidentiality of information related to incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Emergency Transfer Timing and Availability

The Biloxi Housing Authority cannot guarantee that a transfer request will be approved or how long it will take to process a transfer request. The (BHA) will, however, act as quickly as possible to move a tenant who is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to another unit, subject to availability and safety of a unit. If a tenant reasonably believes a proposed transfer would not be safe, the tenant may request a transfer to a different

unit. If a unit is available, the transferred tenant must agree to abide by the terms and conditions that govern occupancy in the unit to which the tenant has been transferred. The (BHA) may be unable to transfer a tenant to a particular unit if the tenant has not or cannot establish eligibility for that unit.

If the (BHA) has no safe and available units for which a tenant who needs an emergency is eligible, (BHA) will assist the tenant in identifying other housing providers who may have safe and available units to which the tenant could move. At the tenant's request, the (BHA) will also assist tenants in contacting the local organizations offering assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are attached to this plan.

Safety and Security of Tenants

Pending processing of the transfer and the actual transfer, if it is approved and occurs, the tenant is urged to take all reasonable precautions to be safe.

Tenants who are or have been victims of domestic violence are encouraged to contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233, or a local domestic violence shelter, for assistance in creating a safety plan. For persons with hearing impairments, that hotline can be accessed by calling 1-800-787-3224 (TTY).

Tenants who have been victims of sexual assault may call the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network's National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800-656-HOPE, or visit the online hotline at <https://ohl.rainn.org/online/>.

Tenants who are or have been victims of stalking seeking help may visit the National Center for Victims of Crime's Stalking Resource Center at <https://www.victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center>.

Attachment: Local organizations offering assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

Supportive Services

Gulf Coast Women's Center for Non-Violence

Crisis Line: 800-800-1396 | **Harrison County:** 228-435-1968 | **Jackson County (Adrienne's House):** 228-762-8267
Hancock County: 228-252-1999| **Norhcutt Legal Clinic:** 228-864-7144|**Pine Belt Legal Clinic:** 601-705-0139

Back Bay Mission

PO Box 288
Biloxi, Mississippi 39533
228-432-0301
www.thebackbaymission.org

Gulf Coast Rescue Mission

2750 Mission Ln, Biloxi, MS 39531
(228) 388-3884

Moore Community House

406 Davis St, 39530 Biloxi, MS 39530
228-297-5074
www.moorecommunityhouse.org

Catholic Social Services Biloxi

855-847-0555
228-702-2100
www.catholiccharitiesbiloxi.org

- Migration and Refugee Center
425B Division Street, Biloxi, Mississippi, 39530
228-374-6554
- Jackson and George County Outreach
1930 Old Mobile Highway, Pascagoula, Mississippi, 39567
228-567-0001
- Morning Star Pregnancy Care Center and Community Outreach
2204 24th Avenue, Gulfport, Mississippi, 39501
228-864-4221
- Twelve Baskets Food Bank
333 Cowan Road, Gulfport, Mississippi, 39507
228-822-0836
- St. Gerard Community Outreach Center
640 Highway 90, Waveland, Mississippi, 39576
228-467-2600
- Our Lady of Fatima
2090 Pass Rd, Biloxi, MS. 39531
228-388-1837
www.fatima@cableone.net

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

St. Paul United Methodist Church

696 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Biloxi 39530
228-432-0247

The Salvation Army Mississippi Gulf Coast

- Salvation Army Harrison County
2019 22nd Street, Gulfport, MS 39501
(228) 228-374-8301
- Salvation Army of Jackson County
3217 Nathan Hale Ave, Pascagoula, MS 39581
228-762-7222
- Salvation Army Social Service Center of George County
52 Virginia Street, Suite A, Lucedale, MS 39452
601-766-3577

American Red Cross of Mississippi

- American Red Cross
612 E Pass Rd, Gulfport, MS 39507
(228) 896-4511
- American Red Cross
1096 Jackson Ave, Pascagoula, MS 39567
(228) 762-2455

Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District (SMPDD)

www.smpdd.com

- SMPDD Gulf Coast Office
9229 Highway 49, Gulfport, MS 39503
Phone: (228) 868-2311
- SMPDD Hattiesburg Office
700 Hardy Street, Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Phone: (601) 545-2137

United Way of South Mississippi -Knight Non-profit Center

1975 Seaway Road
Suite B170, Gulfport, MS 39503
228-896-2213
www.unitedwaysm.org

Housing Assistance

Biloxi Housing Authority

154 Porter Ave., Biloxi, MS 39530
228-374-7771 ext. 254
www.biloxihousing.org

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII

10430 Three Rivers Road, Gulfport, Ms. 39503

Phone: 228-831-2992

www.mrha8.org

Beauvoir Manor Apartments

264 Stennis Dr. Biloxi, MS 39531

228-388-4537

Elmwood Apartments

2020 Lawrence St Biloxi, MS 39531

228-388-7227

William Bell

1700 65th Avenue, Gulfport, MS 39501

228-864-5970

Legal -Medical & Food Assistance

Civil Action Agency- Harrison County

500 24th Street Gulfport, MS 39507

228-284-5217

Coastal Family Health Center (visit website for other locations)

www.coastalfamilyhealth.org

- Coastal Family Health Center- Biloxi
1046 Division St, Biloxi, MS 39530
228-374-2494
- Coastal Family Health Center- Gulfport
15024 Martin Luther King Blvd, Gulfport, MS 39501
228-864-0003
- Bethel Free Clinic
1650 Carroll Drive
Biloxi, MS 39531

Loaves and Fishes of Biloxi

610 Water Street, Biloxi, MS 39530

228-436-6172

For additional information please contact The Biloxi Housing Authority Resident Engagement Coordinator, Kenyatta Thompson at (228) 374-7771 Ext# 228 or Email: kthompson@biloxihousing.org