

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT POLICY

The Billerica Housing Authority will not tolerate any acts of Domestic Violence and will make every effort to ensure that victims of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking will not be denied access to housing.

No applicant for housing, who has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking shall be denied admission into the program if they are otherwise qualified.

Any incident or incidents of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence or stalking will not be considered a violation of the lease on the victim's part. Nor shall the victim's occupancy rights, tenancy or assistance be terminated as a result of violent acts or the threat of violent acts against them.

The BHA may terminate the assistance, occupancy rights and/or tenancy to remove a lawful occupant or tenant who engages in criminal or threatened acts of violence or stalking of family members or others without terminating the assistance, occupancy rights and/or tenancy of the victimized lawful occupants.

The BHA will honor court orders regarding the rights and access or control of the property and other orders issued to protect the victim and address the distribution of possession or property among household members where the family "breaks up".

The BHA may evict for other good cause unrelated to the incident of domestic violence.

Any protections provided under current law protecting the rights of victims of domestic violence supersedes the policy of the BHA.

The BHA may require certification by the victim of victim status.

Approved: November 5, 2015