

## Family and Domestic Violence Policy

### Purpose

To outline Alliance Housing's approach to responding to issues of Family and Domestic Violence (FDV) to assist in the safety and security of affected tenants.

### Scope

This policy applies to all housing programs delivered by Alliance Housing.

### Intent

Alliance Housing takes its role in preventing, reporting or assisting victims of family and domestic violence very seriously. We will treat all reports of family and domestic violence seriously and our primary focus will be to the protection and wellbeing of tenants experiencing FDV.

### Policy

Our response to family and domestic violence will depend on the circumstances of each case.

### Supporting Victims

Where a tenant provides prescribed evidence (see section 7) of family and domestic violence Alliance Housing will:

- Support the tenant in maintaining a safe tenancy;
- Explain the rights of the tenant, co-tenant and any household members when dealing with family domestic violence situations according to the provision in the Residential Tenancies Act. This may include information on how the tenant/co-tenant can terminate a tenancy without penalty if they are in a domestic violence situation;
- Work with other agencies or authorities to assist the tenant;
- Refer the tenant to relevant FDV support programs and services;
- Ensure the property is safe and secure for the tenant;
- Report family and domestic violence matters to relevant authorities where legally required.

Alliance Housing will also work with the victim to ensure that their tenancy arrangements are managed consistent with the Family and Domestic Violence provisions of the Residential Tenancies Act (<https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/consumer-protection/safe-tenancy-wa>)

### Additional Security

Tenants have the right to modify, add or alter the prescribed security fixtures at the premises without Alliance Housing's prior approval if they reasonably believe such actions are necessary to prevent family and domestic violence being carried out against them. Alliance Housing must be notified of any alterations.

Tenants who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing family violence may request our approval to install additional security fixtures at the property. Approval will not be unreasonably withheld.

Any alterations should be completed in a professional manner by a qualified contractor and will be at the tenant's cost. At the end of the tenancy, Alliance Housing may require removal of additional fixtures with tenants given the opportunity to complete the works professionally at their cost.

### Tenants unable to reside in their rental property

Where the tenant is unable to occupy the property due to family violence, Alliance Housing may:

- Recalculate rent or adjust rental charges for an agreed period;
- Consider waiving or reducing the rental charges for a period consistent with the circumstances.

Any changes will be documented and communicated clearly to the affected tenants.

### **Vacating due to Family Violence**

Tenants who have provided prescribed evidence family violence will have the required notice period reduced to 7 days if they wish to end the tenancy in accordance with the Residential Tenancies Act.

### **Joint Tenancies**

Alliance Housing will respect the rights and responsibilities of all co-tenants.

Where a joint tenancy is subject to family violence, Alliance Housing will respect the rights and responsibilities of both co-tenants.

Noting the Family and Domestic Violence provisions of the Residential Tenancies Act, we will seek to work with both co-tenants to achieve an amicable resolution to the tenancy, while prioritising the safety of the victim.

Rental liability will be adjusted appropriately for the departing victim in accordance with legislation.

### **Safety and Confidentiality**

Alliance Housing will not disclose a tenant's new address or contact details to any perpetrator or third party without legal obligation or the tenant's consent.

All FDV disclosures will be handled confidentially, in accordance with the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) and Alliance Housing's record-keeping practices.

### **Evidence Requirements**

Tenants seeking to exercise rights under FDV provisions must provide prescribed evidence:

- Family Violence Restraining Order
- Police report
- Family Court order
- Statutory declaration from a prescribed professional

Alliance Housing will handle all evidence sensitively and confidentially.

### **Legislation and Compliance**

This policy operates consistent with the:

- *Residential Tenancies Act 1987 (WA) – FDV provisions (s.71AB)*
- *Family and Domestic Violence Legislation Reform Act 2020*
- *Privacy Act 1988*
- *Safe Tenancy WA Guidelines*

Implementation, Review and Amendments

This policy is applicable from the date of Board Approval.

Alliance Housing will review this policy on a regular basis to ensure it remains up to date.

Document/ Version Number	Amended By:	Amendment Narrative	Board Approval Date	Status
AH-FDVP/1	Elysian Consultants	New Policy	19/02/2021	Superseded
AH-FDVP/1	Senior Admin	Review -No changes needed	17/08/2022	Superseded
AH-FDVP/2	Board/CEO	Revision – insert Safety requirements & evidence required	17/09/2025	Approved