

CAROLINA FAMILY HEALTH CENTERS, INC. POLICY

TITLE: RW-301 Violence Against Women Act

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 28, 2023

SECTION: Clinical

REFERENCE PROCEDURE: RW-301.01 Violence Against Women Act

RESPONSIBLE CHIEF OF STAFF: Chief Medical Officer

RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE: Medical CIT

REVIEWED: 10/28/2025

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to address the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) for patients who utilize the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) housing program at Carolina Family Health Centers, Inc. (CFHC, Inc.).

II. POLICY

Patients utilizing the Housing Opportunity for People Living with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) program at CFHC, Inc. are informed during their initial intake about the VAWA Policy. This act provides protections for persons who are survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. When necessary, an emergency transfer plan is enacted to allow the tenant a separation of the lease agreement, refer to *RW-301.01 Violence Against Women Act*. The tenant is given a reasonable time frame to establish assistance with a VAWA program and find new housing when the household has been divided as a result of the violence or abuse.

As HOPWA is a subsidiary of HUD, it is a requirement to inform program patients of their rights under the final rule. The rule ensures that survivors are not denied assistance as an applicant for housing, or evicted and terminated due to being a victim of violence or assault.

VAWA allows patients who are experiencing partner violence, abuse, or stalking to develop an emergency transfer plan. Emergency transfer plans are developed between the patient and case manager, and must be documented. A CFHC, Inc. case manager is able to assist patients in requesting a transfer if residents are renting or living in a HUD-approved living situation, and provide advocacy where needed so that the emergency transfer plan is carried out in a timely manner.