

SELF CERTIFICATION OF ABUSE, SEXUAL VIOLENCE OR STALKING

Purpose of this document: This document may be used to certify that a tenant is considered a “protected tenant” as defined by 9 V.S.A. §4471(2) and to request protections in accordance with 9 V.S.A § 4472 & 9 V.S.A § 4473.

Confidentiality: This document, and any information related to the protected tenant’s status as a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking shall be kept strictly confidential and shall not be released or disclosed to another person unless : (1) authorized by the protected tenant; (2) required by a court order, government regulation, or governmental audit requirement; or (3) required as evidence in a court proceeding, provided: (A) the documentation or information remains under seal; and (B) use of the documentation or information is limited to a claim brought pursuant to section 4472 or 4473 of this title. 9 V.S.A. § 4474.

Tenant Name: _____ Landlord Name: _____

Tenant Address: _____

1. I, _____ certify that:

I am a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking,

or

I am a parent, foster parent, legal guardian, or caretaker with at least partial physical custody of a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

2. I am seeking the following protections pursuant to 9 V.S.A § 4472 & 9 V.S.A § 4473:

Termination of my rental agreement. I certify that I qualify for this protection based on a fear of imminent harm to any protected tenant due to abuse, sexual assault, or stalking; or because a protected tenant was a victim of sexual assault that occurred on the premises within the six months preceding the date of this request.

Lock change within 48 hours of this request. I certify that I qualify for change of the locks on my dwelling unit based on a fear of imminent harm to a protected tenant in my household due to abuse, sexual assault, or stalking, or due to the sexual assault of a protected tenant on the premises within the six months preceding the date of this request. I will be responsible for the cost of changing the locks absent written agreement to the contrary. *If landlord does not change the locks within 48 hours of this request, I am permitted to do so pursuant to 9 V.S.A § 4473.

Keys to new locks shall not be provided to co-tenant _____
_____ is the perpetrator of the abuse, sexual assault, or stalking. (copy of the court order that requires the perpetrator to vacate the premises must be attached to support this request.)

Permission to install additional security measures on the premises, including a security system or security camera. I am making this request not less than seven days prior to installation. I have ensured the quality and safety of the security measures and their installation. I will be responsible for the cost of installation and operation of the security measures. I understand that I am liable for damages resulting from the installation.

I certify under the penalties of perjury, that the information provided on this form are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

Signature

Date

Definitions

15 V.S.A. § 1101 Definition of Abuse:

“Abuse” means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between family or household members”

- (A) Attempting to cause or causing physical harm.
- (B) Placing another in fear of imminent serious physical harm.
- (C) Abuse to children as defined in 22 V.S.A. chapter 49, subchapter 2.
- (D) Stalking as defined in 12 V.S.A. § 5131(6).
- (E) Sexual assault as defined in 12 V.S.A. § 5131(5).

15 V.S.A. § 1101 Definition of House members:

“Household members” means persons who, for any period of time, are living or have lived together, are sharing or have shared occupancy of a dwelling, are engaged in or have engaged in a sexual relationship, or minors or adults who are dating or have dated. “Dating” means a social relationship of a romantic nature.

12 V.S.A. § 5131 Definition of sexual assault:

Conduct that meets elements of lewd and lascivious conduct as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2601, lewd and lascivious conduct with a child as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2602, sexual assault as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 3252, aggravated sexual assault as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 3252, use of a child in sexual performance as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2822, or consenting to a sexual performance as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2823

12 V.S.A. § 5131 Definition of “stalk”:

“Stalk” means to engage purposefully in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that the person engaging in the conduct knows or should know would cause a reasonable person to:

- (A) Fear for his or her safety or the safety of a family member, or
- (B) Suffer substantial emotional distress as evidenced by:
 - i. A fear of unlawful sexual conduct, unlawful restraint, bodily injury, or death;
 - ii. Significant modifications in the person’s actions or routines, including moving from an established residence, changes to established daily routes to and from work that cause serious disruption in the person’s life, changes to the person’s employment or work schedule, or loss of a job or time from work.