

One Part of Your Safety Plan

Safe at Home may only keep you safe if it is part of an overall safety plan. If you have created any government records using your current address, the *Safe At Home* substitute address will not protect you. *Safe At Home* will be effective if you relocate to a new residence and then begin using the substitute address as your residence.

The *Safe At Home* program alone cannot keep you safe, but used with other safety strategies it can help. Contact your local victim advocate to discuss safety planning.

As part of your safety plan, you can also:

- Limit the number of deliveries to your home (UPS, mail orders, take-out food, taxi, etc.)
- Ask for a “Private Citizen” designation from your phone company for your E- 911 address.
- Ask utility companies (cable, phone, electricity, heating, etc) about using an alternative address for billing purposes.
- Change your name and/or Social Security number.

Other resources to help keep you safe:

- Statewide Hotlines for 24 hour assistance:
 - Domestic Violence: 1-800-228-7395
 - Sexual Assault: 1-800-489-7273
- Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services:
1-800-750-1213
- Local and State Police Departments



SAFE AT HOME *Address Confidentiality* *Program*



A Mail Forwarding Service for
Victims of Domestic Violence,
Sexual Assault and/or Stalking

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT *SAFE AT HOME*:

1-800-439-8683 (VT only)

1-802-828-0586 (Voice or TTY)

safeathome@sec.state.vt.us

[www.sec.state.vt.us/otherprg/safeathome/
safeathome.html](http://www.sec.state.vt.us/otherprg/safeathome/safeathome.html)



A program of the
Office of the Secretary of State
James C. Condos

WHAT IS *SAFE AT HOME*?

The *Safe at Home* program is offered by the Secretary of State's office to help victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and/or stalking who have moved to escape their abusers. Because public records can be used to locate victims, the *Safe at Home* program helps keep the new address confidential. Additionally, many government agencies share address information, often without notifying the customer.

Safe at Home gives participants a substitute mailing address to use when creating or updating records with state or local government agencies. Mail is sent to the substitute address and is then forwarded, at no cost to the participant, to her or his actual location. Program participants can vote, get married and register births without fear that those records will put them at risk of being located by their abuser.

Safe at Home offers domestic violence, sexual assault and/or stalking victims an extra layer of protection and can be an important part of an overall safety plan.

IS THIS PROGRAM FOR YOU?

To be eligible for the *Safe At Home* program, you must answer yes to the following:

- Are you a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking?
- Are you a resident of Vermont?
- Have you recently relocated or are you planning to move soon to a location unknown to the stalker or abuser?
- Are you at least 18 years old, an emancipated minor, or a parent/legal guardian acting on behalf of a minor or incapacitated person?
- Are you willing to make the Secretary of State's office your agent to receive legal documents and first-class mail?



Participating in the program means:

-You cannot refuse legal documents or evade your legal responsibilities. The *Safe At Home* program must always know how to reach you.

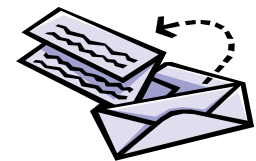
- Your first-class mail and assistance checks may be delayed by as much as 5 days.

APPLYING IS AS EASY AS 1-2-3!

(1) Individuals interested in participating should contact their local Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault Program, or another state-wide victim advocate. Call *Safe At Home* for victim advocates in your area.

(2) Once your completed application is received and accepted, you will be sent additional information and *Safe At Home* authorization cards for every person listed on the application as proof of participation.

(3) After you receive your authorization card, you can start requesting that state and local government agencies use the substitute address. It will be your responsibility to inform agency employees that you are a *Safe At Home* participant and that you wish to use the substitute address.



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