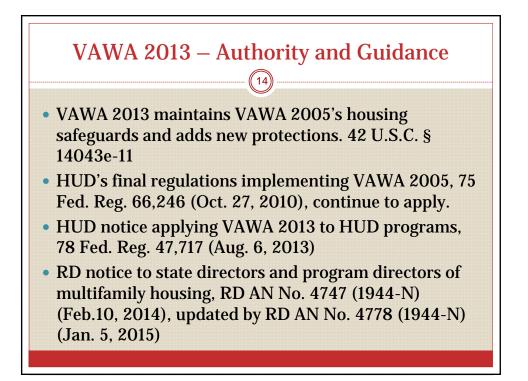


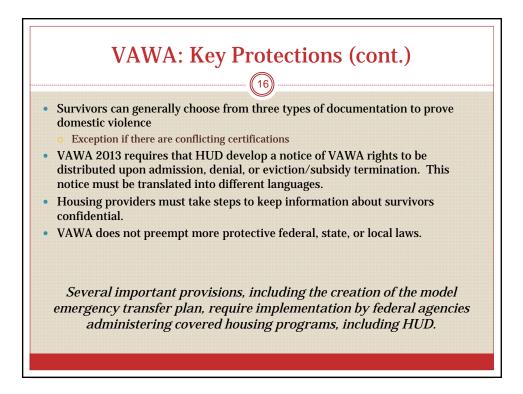
## What is the Violence Against Women Act?

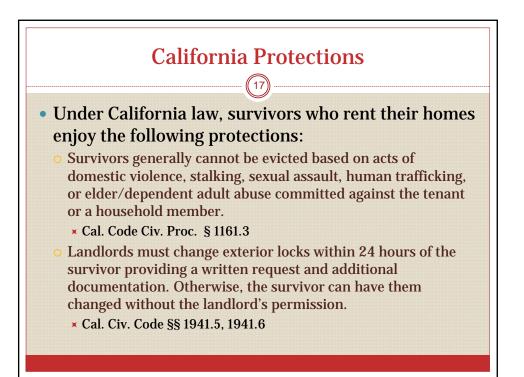
- VAWA protects individuals who are applying for or living in federally subsidized housing from discrimination due to acts of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking committed against them.
- Applies to men and women
- Only applies to federally subsidized housing programs
  E.g., Section 8 Vouchers, public housing, etc.
- VAWA 2013 expands protections to include survivors of sexual assault, LGBT survivors, and all members of a survivor's household (beyond relatives), among other important changes.

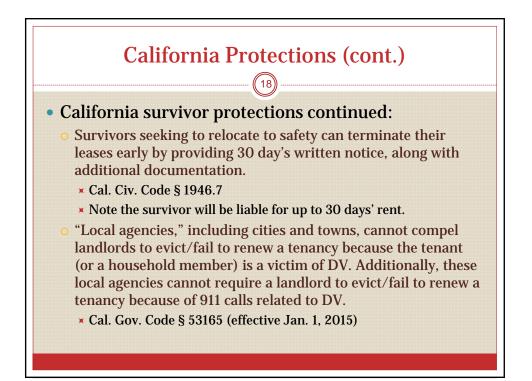




- Housing authorities, landlords, and owners cannot deny admission/assistance or terminate/evict a survivor of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking <u>because of the violence committed against him/her</u>.
- A housing authority or landlord can bifurcate a survivor's lease to remove the abuser while the survivor remains in the unit.
  - If abuser was the only individual eligible for a housing subsidy, VAWA 2013 provides those who remain in the unit the opportunity to establish eligibility for the current unit or another unit covered by VAWA 2013 (or to find new housing).
- A housing authority can allow a survivor family to move to another jurisdiction with a Section 8 voucher, even before the lease term has expired, if the family has complied with other program requirements and the family is moving to safety.
- VAWA 2013 requires that federal agencies with covered programs adopt model emergency transfer plans.









- Jenny rents an apartment in Sacramento. She is divorced, and resides with her two minor children. Jenny has previously allowed her ex-husband to visit their children at the apartment. Recently, the ex-husband has become violent towards her. Despite telling her ex he is no longer welcome, he has begun showing up at the unit unannounced. Afraid for the safety of herself and her children, Jenny has called the police on several occasions.
- <u>Scenario 1</u>: Jenny's landlord is now seeking to evict her because of unit damage caused during one of her ex's violent episodes. What can Jenny do to defend the eviction? Does it matter if the unit is subsidized?

