

Are you a family in need of shelter? Know Your Rights!



Do I have a right to shelter?

Under DC law, you have a right to shelter when it is freezing outside (below 32 degrees with wind chill) and you have no safe place to go. If it is after 4:00pm or a weekend and you have no safe place to go, call 1-800-535-7252. Ask if a severe weather or hypothermia alert has been called. Tell the hotline worker your situation and ask to be picked up and taken to a shelter.

Do I have the right to apply for shelter?

You cannot be turned away from applying for shelter at the Virginia Williams Family Resource Center, 33 N Street, NE (hours are 8:30am – 4pm, Monday-Thursday). You also have the right to receive a written notice of whether you were found eligible and whether you are being placed in shelter.

Should I still apply for shelter even if there's no hypothermia alert and I have a safe place to stay for a little while?

Yes. There may be other ways the Family Resource Center can help you. They have employment services and rental assistance to stop an eviction. Sometimes they also have tokens and food vouchers. The Family Resource Center also may be able to help you find longer term housing.

What else can I do to help my family?

Call the government officials and private agencies on the back side of this flyer to ask for help. Keep a list of everyone you call, when you called, and what they said.

What should I do if I have no safe place to stay and can't get into shelter?

Call the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless at 328-5500. We can help you figure out if your rights have been violated and talk through your choices for tonight. You can also ask people you call on the other side of this sheet what safe places they recommend.