

Important Definitions

“Domestic violence” means actual or threat of physical abuse, harassment, intimidation of a dependent, interference with personal liberty or willful deprivation by a family or household member.

“Human trafficking” means in part, when a person is involved with or attempts to subject another person to involuntary servitude.

- “Involuntary servitude” includes obtaining or maintaining labor and services through any of the following means (actual or threatened): physical harm or physical restraint; abuse of the law or legal process; knowingly destroying, concealing or removing a government identification document; intimidation or financial control; using any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause the person to believe that they or another person will suffer serious harm or physical restraint, if labor or services are not performed.

“Sexual assault” means actual or threat of sexual conduct or sexual penetration.

- “Sexual conduct” includes in part, any intentional or knowing touching or fondling by the victim or perpetrator, either directly or through clothing, of the sex organs, anus, or breast of either person, or any part of the body of a child under 13 years of age, for the purpose of sexual gratification or arousal of the victim or perpetrator.
- “Sexual penetration” includes in part, any contact between the sex organ or anus of one person by an object, the sex organ, mouth or anus of another person, or any intrusion of any part of the body into the sex organ or anus of another person.

“Stalking” means engaging in a course of conduct (2 or more acts) directed at a specific person, and who knows or should know that this course of conduct would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety, the safety of a workplace, school, or place of worship, or the safety of a third person or suffer emotional distress.



KWAME RAOUL ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Address Confidentiality Program is an integral part of a safety plan and will not provide adequate protection on its own. You are strongly encouraged to work with an advocate to develop a comprehensive safety plan. To locate an advocate, contact the Illinois Domestic Violence Helpline at (877) 863-6338 or visit [icasa.org/crisis-centers](https://www.icasa.org/crisis-centers) to locate a Rape Crisis Center in your area.

For more information about how you can protect yourself through the Address Confidentiality Program, please contact our office at:

1-844-916-0295 (Toll-Free)
acp@ilag.gov

Individuals with hearing or speech disabilities can reach us by using the 7-1-1 relay service.

[illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/victims/address-confidentiality](https://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/victims/address-confidentiality)

Illinois Address Confidentiality Program



What is the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP)?

The ACP provides survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and stalking with a substitute address to use instead of their real address. The ACP substitute address helps prevent perpetrators from locating survivors through public records.

The ACP is NOT a witness protection program that can assist with relocation or a change of identity. The ACP can be a valuable addition to a safety plan, but is not substitute for a comprehensive safety plan.

The ACP is most effective when the applicant relocates to a new address right around the time of application.

How does the ACP work?

The ACP provides participants with a substitute address and a mail-forwarding system. Survivors use the ACP substitute address for creating or updating public records. For example, participants can (and should) place the ACP substitute address on their driver's license or state-issued identification card.

Participants can also use the ACP substitute address for personal use — just like any new address. The ACP receives participant mail sent to the ACP substitute address and forwards this mail to the participants' actual addresses.

The ACP forwards all first-class mail, including personal mail, bills, cards, letters etc. Junk mail and magazines are not forwarded. ACP will not forward packages, medications, and medical supplies mailed to the ACP Substitute address due to security and safety hazards. Participants will receive information on making alternative arrangements to receive packages.

When the ACP receives legal service on behalf of a participant, it is treated as if the participant received the service directly.

Who can enroll in the ACP?

- An adult who 1) has good reason to believe he or she is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, or stalking and 2) fears for his or her safety.
- A parent or guardian acting on behalf of a minor child who 1) has good reason to believe that the child is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, or stalking and 2) fears for the child's safety.
- A legal guardian acting on behalf of a person with a disability who 1) has good reason to believe that the person with a disability is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, or stalking and 2) fears for the safety of the person with a disability.
- All other members of the ACP participant's household are strongly encouraged to participate in the program to best protect the address.

Each adult residing in the household must complete a separate application.



ACP Guidelines:

- Enroll in the ACP by submitting a secure online application to the Attorney General's office.
- The length of enrollment is four years. Participants may renew their enrollment at the end of the four-year term or voluntarily withdraw from the program at any time.
- There is no cost for participants to enroll in the ACP.
- Participants must inform the ACP of a change of address at least seven days before moving. If a participant's living arrangements change suddenly, the participant should contact the ACP immediately to prevent the participant's mail from being forwarded to the former address.
- The Attorney General's office is prohibited from disclosing the addresses provided by a participant unless the office receives a request from law enforcement or a court order requiring the addresses to be disclosed to a specific individual.
- The ACP and other government agencies are not able to remove or delete information that already exists in public records, including addresses.
- Although only state and local government agencies are required to accept the ACP substitute address in place of the participant's home, school, or work addresses, private entities may accept the substitute address.
- At this time, the ACP is unable to provide confidentiality for property records. Participants are encouraged to consult with an attorney or bank before purchasing property to discuss safety options.