

**ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM -  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (FLORIDA)  
Florida State Statute 741.403**

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) provides services to victims of domestic violence who are attempting escape from actual or threatened violence through relocation. Program participants are provided with an address designated by the attorney general as a substitute mailing address in order to prevent their assailants from finding them. Through the use of the substitute address, program participants receive cost-free, secure mail forwarding. The program serves as each participant's legal agent for receipt of mail and service of process. The program also prevents public access to information about ACP participants in voting records.

**ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:**

Victims of domestic violence who are residents of the State of Florida and have left an abusive situation. Program participants must have relocated to an address unknown to the abuser; participants must also be willing to let the Office of the Attorney General's Address Confidentiality Program staff know their actual location at all times while in the program. A person may be considered the victim of domestic violence for the purpose of the program even if the abuser's actions have not previously been reported to law enforcement.

**TYPE OF ASSISTANCE:**

Each ACP participant is assigned a substitute address that includes a street address, an ACP weatherization code, a Post Office box, a Florida city and a zip code. This address has no relation to a participant's actual location. The address may be used by the participant when creating records with all state and local government entities. Participants who use the substitute address will have first-class mail forwarded to their actual location by the Office of the Attorney General.

**APPLICATION PROCESS/DEADLINES**

Participants enter the Address Confidentiality Program through the help of trained personnel who work at local victim-assistance programs (CASA is an example of one of these assistance programs). ACP application assistants provide domestic-violence counseling, safety planning and assist domestic-violence victims with the completion and filing of ACP paperwork.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

A program participant may request that state and local governmental entities use the address designated by the Attorney General as his or her address. When creating a new public record, state and local agencies must accept the address designated by the Attorney General as a program participant's substitute address. Federal agencies and state and local agencies in other states are not required to accept designated substitute addresses of ACP clients.

Program participants choose when to use their ACP substitute address to keep their actual location secret. When an ACP participant chooses to reveal actual address information to an agency, the agency will not be legally obligated to keep that information confidential.

It is important to note that the Address Confidentiality Program is not a victim/witness protection program. Consequently, the program does not provide emergency resources, legal advice or counseling services. The program does not assist participants in obtaining new names, new social security numbers, or in relocation.