



# Address Confidentiality Program

The District's **Address Confidentiality Program (ACP)**, administered by the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG), helps people at risk of harm stay safe by shielding their street address from public records. ACP services are intended as one tool in an individual's broader safety plan.

This free program provides participants with:

- A legal substitute address to protect their **home, work, or school address**
- A confidential **mail-forwarding** service.

## Who Is It For?

You may qualify for the ACP if you:

- (1) fear for your safety;
- (2) currently (or will soon) reside in the District of Columbia; *AND*
- (3)
  - Have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking;
  - Are employed by an organization whose primary purpose is serving victims who have experienced the above offenses; *OR*
  - Are employed by an organization that focuses on reproductive healthcare.

Applicants are also required to: have moved within the past 60 days, be planning to move within the next 30 days, or have taken adequate measures to ensure their current address is not easily accessible online or through public records. Both adults and children may qualify.

## How to Apply

**Application assistants** are available in several agencies across the District to answer questions, verify eligibility, and accept applications. They also can provide advocacy services and help you develop a comprehensive safety plan based on your individual needs.

To learn more about the ACP or submit your application, reach out to an application assistant at any of the organizations listed at: [ovsjg.dc.gov/acp](https://ovsjg.dc.gov/acp).

## How Does the ACP Work?

### Substitute Address

Applicants who qualify receive an ACP **authorization card** with a substitute address. This card can be presented to any DC agency in place of your real home, work, or school address. Authorization cards are initially valid for 3 years.

With this legal substitute address you can interact with DC agencies without fear of your actual address appearing in public records. With a substitute address you can:

- Get a DC driver's license or ID card
- Enroll children in DC public/charter school
- Vote and sign petitions

While only District agencies are required to honor the substitute address, placing it on a DC driver's license or ID card will protect your actual address in many day-to-day situations.

### Mail Forwarding

When first-class, certified, or registered mail is received at the substitute address, it is forwarded to your home address.

### Limitations

A substitute address does not guarantee your actual address will not be required by other non-government agencies. Your real address will still be required for certain activities, including:

- Purchasing a home or property. (Note that the address may appear in related public listings.)
- Applying for a line of credit on your home.
- Setting up utilities for your home.

Additionally, the ACP does not forward junk mail, packages, or magazines; an advocate or application assistant can help you plan for safely receiving that mail. Other limitations may also apply.



Address Confidentiality Program  
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