

Crisis Center Services

There are many types of services available to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking through one of the 14 crisis centers here in New Hampshire.

If you would like information on your options or just want to talk, call the statewide toll-free hotline to reach the crisis center nearest you.

The crisis centers provide a variety of services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence and stalking.

The services are free, confidential, and available to all victims of domestic or sexual violence or stalking regardless of age, race, gender, religion, or sexual orientation. Services include 24-hour, toll-free support and information hotlines; access to emergency shelter; legal advocacy; and hospital and court accompaniment.

For domestic violence call:
1-866-644-3574

For sexual assault call:
1-800-277-5570

If you are in immediate danger call
911.

Just remember...

√ Voting is your right

As long as you are 18 years old and an American Citizen, you have the right to vote in the town or city where you live.

√ Your vote can make a difference

Don't let anyone tell you that your opinion and vote don't matter.

√ You can vote only once per election

Please be sure you understand where and how you can vote to make sure that you do it correctly and that your vote will be counted!

If you have any questions regarding New Hampshire election laws, please contact:

Attorney Joseph Foster
Office of the Attorney General
33 Capitol Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-3650
Toll Free (866) 868-3703
Electionlaw@doj.nh.gov

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



Are you a victim of domestic violence, stalking or sexual assault?

Have you decided to forgo registering to vote to prevent your name & address from being made public?

If you answered yes this brochure may be of interest to you

Voting in New Hampshire

Any New Hampshire resident, who will be 18 years of age or older on election day, and is a United States Citizen, may register to vote in the town or city where he or she lives.

There is no minimum period of time you are required to have lived in the state before being allowed to register.

There are 3 ways you can register to vote :

- 1) At the town or city clerk's office where you live.
- 2) With the Supervisor of the Checklist.
- 3) At the polling place on election day at all elections.

You will need to fill out a voter registration form and be required to show proof of identity, age, citizenship and your domicile.

You can access a list of city or town clerks offices at www.sos.nh.gov/clerks or by calling the Secretary of State's Office at (603)271-3242.

Unless you use one of the procedure described below, once you are registered to vote, your name, address, and political party affiliation will be placed on a public "voter checklist." This checklist is used for various purposes when elections are held. Because this checklist is public, anyone can get access to this information fairly easily by going to the appropriate town or city clerk and asking to inspect the voter checklist.

This can obviously create concern for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking who are trying to keep their location a secret from their abuser.

What are my options?

There are a few options that victims have in order to try and keep themselves and their information safe when considering to vote.

Protective Order

If you are a victim of domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault and have a valid protective order (under RSA 173-B or 633:3-a), you may request that your name and address (domicile and mailing addresses if different be removed from the "public" checklist" (under RSA 654:25) in the town you are currently registered to vote in. This will also enable you to vote using an Absentee Ballot, which means that you

will not have to go and vote in person on the day of the election. You will need to register to vote using a special Absentee Voter Registration Form (RSA 654:16), so you should contact the town clerk's office at least one month prior to the election to complete and process the application. You will also need to provide proof of the valid protective order.

Absentee Ballot

Any person who is legally qualified to vote in a town or city in New Hampshire, who has a protective order, who participates in the Address Confidentiality Program, is unable to make it to the polls by reason of having a physical disability, religious practice, employment obligation or because he or she is temporarily absent, may register to vote using a special Absentee Voter Registration Form, (RSA 654:16). According to the Secretary of State's Office, this could apply if you are living in a domestic violence shelter. Because there is an application process in order to get an absentee ballot, make sure you contact the town you are currently registered to vote in at least one month prior to the election to process and complete an application.

Living in Shelter

If you currently live in a domestic violence shelter in New Hampshire, you may be able to register to vote in the town that the shelter is located, since that shelter is considered your current residence.

This is explained in part by RSA 654:1

An inhabitant's domicile for voting purposes is that one place where a person, more than any other place, has established a physical presence and manifests an intent to maintain a single continuous presence for domestic, social, and civil purposes relevant to participating in democratic self-government.

You can only register and vote in one town. Therefore, if you are already registered in New Hampshire and wish to vote in the town where the shelter is located, you must re-register in that town to vote.

Address Confidentiality Program (ACP)

Participants in the ACP designate the Attorney General as their legal agent for service of process of legal documents and receipt of mail. They will receive a substitute address

that state and local agencies must accept as though it were the participant's legal address, making it harder for them to be tracked down through public records.

ACP participants who are otherwise qualified to vote may apply as an absentee voter and neither their name or address will be available to the public.

There are requirements that someone must meet to be eligible for the ACP. In order to apply to the ACP, individuals must go through a screening and application process through one of the domestic or sexual violence crisis centers in New Hampshire. This process can take at least a week. If you are interested in the ACP, please contact the local domestic or sexual violence program in your area to set up an appointment to discuss the ACP.

Other things to consider

While these protections can go a long way in helping to keep your information safe, there are two other things that you should keep in mind when voting:

Announcement by Moderator

On election day the moderator is required to publicly announce the names of people who voted with an absentee ballot. However, if you are a participant in ACP or if you have a valid protective order under 173-B the moderator will not announce your name. Instead they will identify such voters as "Confidential Voter 1", "Confidential Voter 2" etc. (RSA 659:50). For this to happen you need to make sure that when you register to vote that you provide proof of either a valid protective order or participation in the ACP.

Candidate Requests

Candidates whose names appear on the ballot, and persons who have received notarized requests from such candidates, may obtain a list of absentee voter applicants from the supervisor of the checklist. This does not apply to those voters that have a valid protective order under RSA 173-B (RSA 657:15). Therefore it is important that if you have a protective order that you show that to the supervisor of the checklist when you register to vote so your name won't be included on the list of absentee voters.