

Miami Inclusion Alliance- at the Intersection of Abuse and Disability

By: Sharon Langer

There is a lot of discussion these days about voting rights and getting everyone registered to vote. There is also much conversation about privacy rights, use of our personal information and concern about our private information being available to those who might want to harm us. This got me thinking about victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. Is their addresses available as part of their registration to vote? The answer is yes, BUT...Florida has an Address Confidentiality Program that can help. I did not know this program existed until I researched it and hope that we can begin to get the word out to victims/survivors that it can protect them. This is how it works.

The Office of the Attorney General administers the [Address Confidentiality Program](#) (Florida Statute 741.401-741.409). This program was established by the Florida Legislature in recognition that individuals attempting to escape from actual or threatened domestic violence frequently establish new addresses for their protection. In 2010, the Legislature expanded the program to include stalking victims. The purpose of this statute is to enable state and local agencies to respond to requests for public records without disclosing the location of a victim of domestic violence or stalking.

All Address Confidentiality Program participants over the age of 18 are eligible to register to vote and vote as "Protected Records Voters."

If you are already registered with this program, you need to bring your Confidentiality Authorization Card to your local elections office and complete a new voter registration application. If your name appears in the statewide voter registration database, it will be removed, and your application will be maintained as a paper file only. Before each election for which you are eligible to vote, they will mail your ballot to the Office of the Attorney General, who will then forward your ballot to a mailing address you have provided them.

If you are not currently registered with the Address Confidentiality Program, you must contact the Office of the Attorney General:

Office of the Attorney General
Address Confidentiality Program
P.O. Box 6298
Tallahassee, FL 32314-6298

If you know anyone who can benefit from this program please pass on this important information.