

What is the **SAFE AT HOME** Confidential Address Program?

Since January 1, 2007 the **SAFE AT HOME** Confidential Address Program has allowed certain people to use a safe address for their DMV records, complete a confidential name change and register to vote secure in the knowledge that their home address will not be made available to the public.

Who can the **SAFE AT HOME** program help?

If you are a survivor of domestic violence or a victim of stalking or are living in fear as a provider, employee, volunteer or patient of a reproductive health care clinic the CA Secretary of State's **SAFE AT HOME** program allows you to provide an alternate safe address.

How does **SAFE AT HOME** work?

- **SAFE AT HOME** will give you an official, substitute address to use in place of your real home address.
- All first class mail, legal documents and certified mail will go to the **SAFE AT HOME** offices in Sacramento. They will be forwarded to you so that your real address remains absolutely confidential. Mail is forwarded within 48 hours.
- As a participant in Safe at Home you can also protect yourself and your family by suppressing your DMV records, registering as a confidential voter and applying for a confidential name change.
- **SAFE AT HOME** allows an adult or guardian of a minor or incapacitated person to designate the Secretary of State as his or her agent for service of process and mail receipt. The program rules are the same for all participants.
- **SAFE AT HOME** provides confidential address protection in public records and vital records. While previously filed birth, death and marriage certificates remain public, all new documents can be protected.
- **SAFE AT HOME** keeps your voter registration confidential through a simple registration or re-registration process. You will automatically receive "absentee voter status" so you can vote by mail.
- Program participants can have their voter registration information kept entirely confidential from campaigns, pollsters and the media by completing a confidential voter registration affidavit at the time of enrollment for the first time or re-registering at the Registrar of Voters/County Clerks offices. Once registered, **SAFE AT HOME** participants automatically receive "absent voter status" so they can vote by mail. Absent voter privileges are revoked once the participant's four-year term expires or is cancelled.

Source:

Bowen, D. (2000). California secretary of state - Safe at home. Retrieved May 27, 2008, from Safe at home confidential address program Web site: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/safeathome/home.htm>

How long would I have to wait for the *SAFE AT HOME* program to take effect?

- Generally the process takes 1-2 weeks to take effect. If you can't wait that long, contact your local police department and ask about domestic violence shelters you can use temporarily.

How much will the *SAFE AT HOME* program cost me?

- For most participants, this is a no-cost mail forwarding service. Doctors and other health care professionals pay just a small service fee for this unique service.

How can I enroll in the *SAFE AT HOME* program?

- You can sign up with an enrolling agency, such as domestic violence shelters or reproductive health care facilities. An enrolling agency will work with you on the evidence of abuse or threats required for enrollment. Many local police, therapists and even schools can refer you to an enrolling agency.

The documentation you will need will vary with your circumstances. But enrolling agencies throughout the state will help you. To locate the appropriate agency nearest you, please call toll free 1.877.322.5227.

Or visit this website:

http://www.sos.ca.gov/safeathome/Safe_at_Home_agencies.htm

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