

# SHORT-TERM HOUSING OPTIONS IN VIOLENT SITUATIONS

## Reference Guide

In a violent situation, finding a safe place to stay is paramount. People who are experiencing or have experienced violence sometimes need to quickly find another place to stay or may want to remain in their current home in the short term.



### Quickly leaving the home

If possible, a person who is experiencing or has experienced violence and wants to leave their home quickly should:

#### 1. Plan where they'll stay

They can stay with **someone they trust** if the option is available.

There are also safe **emergency shelters** for members of the LGBTQ+ community. More information about local shelters can be obtained by contacting local LGBTQ+ outreach organizations or calling the [Interligne helpline and referral service](#) (website in French only, but services may be offered in English).

#### 2. Prepare a go bag with personal belongings and important documents (IDs, medication, clothes, copies of house keys, etc.)

In some cases, a person who has to leave their home quickly may be eligible for [emergency financial assistance](#) to cover the costs.

Some emergency shelters can also cover these costs.



## Staying in the home

A person who is experiencing or has experienced violence may want to stay in their current home for a short while. In some cases, they may have the right to make their partner leave.

The rules below apply to renters. Different rules apply to owners.

### One person on the lease

If only one partner is the legal tenant, that partner **has the right to stay** in the home and can tell the other partner to leave. They are also solely responsible for rent.



#### UNOFFICIAL TENANTS MAY BE ABLE TO STAY IN THE HOME

If the person who is experiencing violence isn't on the lease but wants to stay in the home, they can ask the court for permission to stay there temporarily if they can prove it's in the **children's best interests**.

The partner who is on the lease could also choose to leave the apartment and have the person who is experiencing the violence **replace them on the lease**. This will make them the legal tenant under certain conditions.

### Several people on the lease

All legal tenants have the right to stay in the home. If both partners are on the lease, they must **decide together** who gets to stay.

In some cases, **mediation** can help them come to an agreement.

A person who is experiencing violence can also ask the **court** to order their partner to leave temporarily if they can prove it's in their children's best interests.



For more information, read our articles:

- [Separation of Common-Law Couples: Who Stays in a Rented Family Home?](#) (for unmarried renters)
- [Separation of Common-Law Couples: Who Stays in the Family House?](#) (for unmarried owners)
- [The Family Home When Spouses Separate](#) (for married persons)