

LONG-TERM HOUSING OPTIONS IN VIOLENT SITUATIONS

Reference Guide

Dealing with the current home can be a major issue in violent situations. Sometimes, the person who is experiencing or has experienced violence shares that home with their partner.

The person may want to permanently leave their current home, or may prefer to keep it.



Leaving the home

Tenants wishing to leave their home due to a violent situation have several options:

1. End the lease due to violence

By law, tenants may **end their lease** if their safety or that of their children is at risk due to a **violent situation**. This is an option even if the perpetrator doesn't live in the same home.

To end the lease, the person must follow a series of steps.

They may be eligible for financial assistance from the Indemnisation des victimes d'actes criminels (crime victim compensation program, or "IVAC") and could be reimbursed up to \$1,286 per month for two months of rent.

2. Transfer the lease or sublet the home

The person experiencing violence may leave the home by **transferring their lease**. They must follow the steps set out by law. Once they transfer their lease, they will no longer be responsible for rent since this responsibility will be transferred to the new tenant.

The home can also be **sublet**, but the person experiencing violence remains on the hook if the subletter doesn't pay the rent.



For more information:

- [Ending a Lease for Spousal or Sexual Violence - Éducaloi](#)
- [Financial assistance for psychotherapeutic or psychosocial rehabilitation, physical rehabilitation and social reintegration - IVAC](#)
- [Assigning a Lease or Subletting - Éducaloi](#)



Keeping the home

A person who is experiencing or has experienced violence may want to stay in their current home. 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 KEEP THE HOME

The person who is experiencing violence may be able to keep the home if their partner **leaves the lease to them**. In this case, the person experiencing violence would replace their ex on the lease and become the legal tenant under certain conditions.

If the partners were married, the person who isn't on the lease can ask the court to **award the lease to them**.

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.

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