

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Why get involved?

Every year thousands of Albertans experience abuse within their families. At least 10,000 of these are serious enough that police are called. People experiencing abuse come from all walks of life. Many of them live in apartments or other forms of rental accommodation. As a result, landlords, property managers, and other on-site staff may be the first to notice that something is going wrong in one of their units.

Many of us are reluctant to get involved in the affairs of other families. We don't want to meddle in someone else's life. We often think that domestic violence is a private matter. Something best left to the person experiencing abuse to deal with. But we all have a role to play in preventing or responding to domestic violence. Doing so may even save a life.

Domestic violence affects us all. And if it occurs on your premises, it will likely also affect other residents and your staff. You have a unique opportunity to help reduce and respond to domestic violence on your premises.

You can play a very important role in

- preventing or reducing domestic violence on your premises,
- getting tenants experiencing domestic violence the help they need, and
- caring for your staff and other residents when domestic violence affects you as a community.

Centre for Public cplea Legal Education Alberta

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Lauretta Enders, CPM® put it this way…

What happens at home can have a dramatic impact on the safety and productivity in the workplace and in rental properties. As landlords and property managers, we have a tremendous opportunity to support a consistent message of support to our community to help raise awareness and reduce the incidence and severity of domestic violence in rental premises.

There is a range of roles that landlords and property managers can take to reduce isolation and risks.

- Raise awareness about domestic violence and the availability of services
- Be mindful. Ask: "Are you ok?"
- Provide simple and accessible referral information
- Relocate tenants
- Terminate the lease early in compliance with the *Residential Tenancies Act*
- Call the police
- Follow up with tenants and staff

By being aware of this social problem and informed of the signs of domestic abuse, we can help provide an educated response to our residents experiencing violence and refer to them all necessary avenues of support.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I get the complete Toolkit?

The complete **Domestic Violence Toolkit for Landlords** is available to download on the following web sites:

www.cplea.ca

www.landlordandtenant.org

www.willownet.ca

Handy Resources

Alberta Government

Domestic & Intimate Partner Violence in Alberta – tip sheet

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