

Not ok at all!

Are you OK?

Jim, Maria, and their two children moved into their two bedroom apartment three years ago, shortly after the birth of their second child. The lease was in both Jim's and Maria's names and the family seemed to have settled in well. Jim always paid the rent on time and the property manager, Joanne, can recall no complaints of noise or misbehaviour of the young children.

But when the recession hit Alberta, Jim's hours of work were reduced and Jim's rent cheques started bouncing. Joanne chatted with Jim about the problem. He assured her that he had things under control and that, in the future, the rent would get paid on time. But after two more cheques bounced, Joanne decided to serve an eviction notice. She couldn't seem to catch Jim so she posted the notice on the door of the unit. That brought Maria to the office to say that she would be leaving with the children because Jim had been getting increasingly violent when he was drinking. In fact, that night, Maria called the police because she was afraid Jim would hurt her or the children.

The next morning, the young woman living in the unit next door to Jim and Maria stopped by the office and complained to Joanne about the angry noises she heard next door. She was even afraid to go out for her groceries. Joanne did her best to reassure the young woman that steps were being taken to deal with the situation but Joanne is not at all confident about what is going on and what she should do.

Sound familiar?