

What can the victim do?

Are you OK?

Get help from a professional

All across Alberta there are services that help all types of victims who may be experiencing all types of domestic violence. Some are free, some have fees based on ability to pay, and some charge a standard fee to everyone. The **Family Violence Info Line 310.1818** is free and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in more than 170 languages. Some municipalities also maintain help lines. In many centres, these can be accessed by calling 211.

Make a Safety Plan

If the victim wants to separate from her abuser, this can be the most dangerous time in their relationship. The Family Violence Info Line will help her develop a safety plan. If she has children, she must keep them safe at all times. If something does happen, they need to be prepared. Should they go to a friend or neighbour's house and wait? Should they call 911? Having a plan can make a huge difference in an emergency situation.

Get a protection order

There are several kinds of protection orders that can help victims of abuse. They apply in different situations but there is usually one that will help. Police or a service agency will likely be able to provide some assistance in getting what is needed.

Get a parenting order

If children are involved, the victim may want to get a Parenting Order from Family Court to set out who will be responsible for making decisions about the children and what time each will have with them.

Move out

The victim may decide that it is best to move to a new residence as quickly as possible. If she is living somewhere else and afraid to come back to get her things, the police may be able to help her.

Under the *Residential Tenancies Act* a victim can apply for a certificate that will allow her to terminate her lease with 28 days notice and without a financial penalty.

You may be able to make this easier for her by offering the victim another unit in a different building.

Frequently asked questions

It's great that she has all these options but how does she get these orders?

The police may help her get an Emergency Protection Order. If not, she should call Legal Aid Alberta. If they can't help her, they will likely know who can. Most police departments have a Victims Services Unit that helps with criminal matters.

There are also services available through Family Court that might be able to help. Refer the victim to the **Family Violence Info Line 310.1818** to get connected to the help she needs.

Her doctor or other professional can help her get the certificate to terminate her lease early.

Does she have to stay in the apartment for 28 days after she gives the landlord her certificate and her notice?

NO! She just has to pay rent for those days. She can leave as soon as it is best for her to do so.

Handy resources

Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta

If You're Thinking of Leaving - booklet

<https://www.cplea.ca/ThinkingOfLeaving.pdf>

Leaving an abusive relationship if you are not a Canadian - booklet

<https://www.cplea.ca/LeavingNonCanadian.pdf>

What you need to know about Emergency Protection Orders - booklet

<https://www.cplea.ca/EmergencyPO.pdf>

No Contact Orders - poster

<https://www.cplea.ca/NoContactOrders.pdf>

If you leave...Your Guide to Child Custody and Parenting Orders - booklet
<https://www.cplea.ca/CustodyParentingOrders.pdf>

Renting and Domestic Violence: Ending Your Lease Early - booklet
<https://www.cplea.ca/DVandRenting.pdf>

Alberta Human Services

Create a safety plan - website
<https://bit.ly/1u6KT8E>

Alberta SPCA and the Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta

Get Out and keep them safe too - brochure
<https://bit.ly/2pKDE9E>

Alberta Government

Apply for a Parenting Order - website
<https://bit.ly/2usW5Ev>

Safer spaces certificate to end tenancy - website
<https://bit.ly/2kCgnqx>