



Safe Tenancy: Family Violence Provisions

Information for public housing tenants

Why are WA's tenancy laws changing?

WA's tenancy laws are changing to provide better support to tenants affected by family violence, whether they live in private or public rental properties.

These changes to WA's Residential Tenancies Act (the Act) come into effect in April 2019.

They are designed to provide tenants who have or are experiencing family violence with increased options and the ability to ease some of the financial burdens faced by tenants who leave a property due to family violence.

In an emergency or if someone is in immediate danger call the police on 000.

The Women's Domestic Violence Helpline is a State-wide, 24-hour service that can provide support.

Call 9223 1188 or free call 1800 007 339.

The Men's Domestic Violence Helpline is a State-wide 24-hour service.

Call 9223 1199 or free call 1800 000 599.

What do the changes mean for tenants?

The changes to the Act will provide a range of practical options to tenants experiencing family and domestic violence including:

- the ability to end a tenancy or tenancy interest directly with a landlord or property manager, with appropriate evidence
- the ability to remove a perpetrator from a tenancy agreement and remain in the property by applying to the Court
- the option to apply to the Court to settle financial disputes regarding rent and property damage
- the option to change locks on a rental property without seeking landlord permission to stop a perpetrator accessing the property
- the option to install security measures at the rental property in certain circumstances
- a process to have their name removed from blacklisted tenancy databases if this is due to family and domestic violence

For more information on how to access these options, please contact your local Housing office or visit www.safetenancy.wa.gov.au





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What evidence do I need to provide to end my tenancy?

You will need to provide suitable written evidence, such as:

- a Family Violence Restraining Order or Domestic Violence Order
- a Family Court injunction
- proof of criminal charges or an upcoming court hearing
- a new Family Violence Report – Evidence Form (available from www.safetenancy.wa.gov.au) signed by an authorised person.

Further information

This fact sheet has been designed to provide information for tenants in public housing. Other information is available at:

Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

For general information about the legislative changes, including resources for private tenancies please visit

www.safetenancy.wa.gov.au

Department of Communities

For updates on this project from Communities, and links to information for tenants other types of social housing please visit

www.communities.wa.gov.au/safetenancy

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