

HOUSING & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (DURING COVID-19)



This information is general and should not be relied upon as a substitute for legal advice. The Legal Services Commission provides free advice for most legal problems. Contact the [Legal Helpline on 1300 366 424](tel:1300366424) www.lsc.sa.gov.au www.lawhandbook.sa.gov.au

Domestic and family violence can get worse during a crisis. During the COVID-19 pandemic you may be worried about your safety, or the safety of someone you know. With directions to self-isolate many victims of domestic and family violence do not know where they can receive help or what services are open. These factsheets will give you helpful information and contacts to support you and your family to remain safe during these difficult times.

WHAT IS DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE?

Domestic and family violence takes many forms, including physical injury, emotional and psychological harm, social isolation and financial control.

I LOST MY JOB DUE TO COVID-19 AND NOW CANNOT AFFORD MY RENT

The following new measures have been implemented to protect tenants during COVID-19:

- Tenants cannot be evicted by landlords due to an inability to pay rent due to COVID-19 job loss
- Landlord cannot increase rent during COVID-19
- COVID-19 is declared a type of undue hardship for The South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT) applications.

Further information can be found at <https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/school-and-community/housing-and-in-the-community>

CAN I BREAK MY LEASE IF I AM NOT SAFE IN MY HOME?

YES.

SACAT can terminate a tenancy if a tenant is facing domestic violence or hardship and are still accepting applications. All hearings take place by telephone during COVID-19.

For free advice please call WDVCS on 1800 246 642.

WILL I BE FINED FOR LEAVING MY HOME?

NO.

If you have to leave your home due to domestic or family violence

police will not issue a fine for breaching self isolation directions.

You are able to leave your home for essential purposes.

HOW CAN I GET HELP?

For free information, advice and referrals call the Legal Helpline - 1300 366 424.

Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Service (WDVCAS) can provide free advice and representation to women needing assistance in terminating their lease due to domestic or family violence.

Please contact WDVCS on 1800 246 642 or complete an online enquiry form at <https://wdvcas.lsc.sa.gov.au/get-help/>

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

COVID-19 Information for South Australians: <https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/>

South Australian Domestic Violence Crisis Line – 1800 800 089

Homelessness Gateway - 1800 003 308

COVID-19 Emergency Relief Call Centre – 1300 705 336

Women's Information Service (WIS) – 8303 0590

SA COVID-19 Mental Health Support Line – 1800 632 753



<https://wdvcas.lsc.sa.gov.au/>

For details of publication and legal information resources

visit lsc.sa.gov.au or telephone 1300 366 424

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