

Checklist and Useful Contacts

Leaving domestic violence

I have left a violent relationship. What are some practical things I need to organise?

- ❑ **Legal information and advice on your rights:** Some topics you may wish to discuss are Intervention Orders, family law, divorce, child support, housing and victim's of crime compensation.

Your nearest community legal centre: find details at

www.naccl.org.au/need_legal_help.php or www.saccls.org.au

Women's Legal Service (SA) Inc.:	1800 816 349 (outside Adelaide) or (08) 8221 5553
Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (ALRM):	1800 643 222 (outside Adelaide) or (08) 113 3777
Legal Services Commission of SA:	1300 366 424 or (08) 8463 3555

- ❑ **Housing:** To find **alternative accommodation:** call the Homelessness Gateway or in an emergency call the Domestic Violence Crisis Line to find a refuge. If you have moved out of a **rental** property, have your name removed from the lease, the Tenancy Advice Service can give you more information. If you **own your home**, get legal advice about your immediate rights and responsibilities.

Domestic Violence & Aboriginal Family Violence Gateway Services:	1300 782 200
Homelessness Gateway:	1800 003 308 (24 hours)
Housing SA:	131 299 or (08) 8207 0211 (outside Adelaide)
Consumer and Business Service (Tenancy Advice):	131 882

- ❑ **Utilities:** If you have moved out of the house, remove your name from utility accounts such as water, gas and electricity. For more information, see the Debt factsheet in this toolkit.
- ❑ **Phone:** Update your details with your mobile phone company. If you want a different number, contact your phone carrier to change your phone number for free. Cancel any home phone in your name at your old house, including Internet and Pay TV accounts.
- ❑ **Bank and Credit Union:** Update your details and talk to your bank about opening your own account and closing joint accounts.
- ❑ **Mail:** Contact Australia Post to redirect your mail to your new address or, for increased privacy, get a Post Office Box. There may be costs involved.

Australia Post: 13 76 78 or www.auspost.com.au

- ❑ **Important documents:** If you no longer have the originals, you can get copies of most documents including birth certificates, marriage certificate, passports, bank books, Intervention Orders, property (title) deeds, car registration, Medicare card. There may be costs involved for some of these documents. You also may be able to recover personal items from your old address with Police assistance, see property, child support and maintenance factsheet.

Births Deaths & Marriages:	131 882 or www.cbs.sa.gov.au
Australian Passports:	131 232 or www.passports.gov.au
Local Courts (for Intervention Orders):	(08) 8204 2444 www.courts.sa.gov.au

- ☐ **Centrelink:** Update your details, including contact details and change in family and employment circumstances and make sure that you are getting the payments that you are eligible for. You may be eligible for a Crisis Payment. You can also get a password put on your file to make your information more secure. For more information contact the Welfare Rights Centre.

Centrelink: 131794 or www.humanservices.gov.au
Welfare Rights Centre SA: [\(08\) 8223 1338](tel:0882231338)

- ☐ **Child Support:** You may want to apply for child support payments. If you feel it is unsafe for you to collect money from your ex, the Child Support Agency can arrange to collect the money. See the Property, Child Support and Maintenance Factsheet in this toolkit.

Child Support Agency: 13 12 72 or www.humanservices.gov.au
Legal Services Commission of SA – Child Support Unit: 1300 366 424 or (08) 8463 3576

- ☐ **Children’s school and/or preschool:** Update your contact details. Also let the school know if there are any safety issues for the children, and/or any restrictions in an Intervention Order that they should know about (such as your ex not to contact the children).
- ☐ **Victims Services:** You can get information about counselling, victims compensation and registering with the Victims Register (to be told when someone gets out of jail) from a community legal centre or directly from Victims Support Service.

Victim Support Service: (08) 8231 5626 or www.victimsa.org

- ☐ **Pets:** Temporary housing for pets is available for people who have escaped domestic violence through the RSPCA. You can also update your details through a microchip register if your pet is microchipped.

Emergency shelters for pets: 1300 477 722 or www.rspcasa.asn.au
Microchip register www.petaddress.com.au

- ☐ **Update all your details:** You may need to provide with your new contact details or discuss your options with other services. Some of these are:
 - Employer
 - Local doctor, health provider, counsellor, dentist
 - Medicare: 13 20 11
 - Insurance companies – Health, Car, Home and Contents, Life, Funeral etc
 - Driver’s license and car registration: www.transport.sa.gov.au or 13 10 84
 - Solicitor, accountant, financial counsellor etc.
 - Superannuation fund
 - Australian Electoral Commission: 13 23 26 (may need to note that you want your address to remain confidential)
 - Australian Taxation Office: 13 28 61
 - Police – if there are criminal charges against your ex, or police have applied for an Intervention Order for your protection, and you need to be contacted

Ask for an interpreter if you need one. To arrange an interpreter yourself, call the **Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)** on 131 450.