

Renting and family or personal violence



Who can apply?

If you are living in a rented premises and you have been or are being subjected to family or personal violence, you can apply to VCAT to:

- **get out** of your rental or residency agreement early (reduce the term of your agreement)
- **stay** in the property but change the agreement to your name by creating a new agreement
- **challenge** certain kinds of notices to vacate if the reason you are being asked to vacate relates to family or personal violence.

There is no cost for this application.

Contact us on **1300 01 8228 (1300 01 VCAT)** if you have any questions.

Before you apply to VCAT

If you want to get out of your rental or residency agreement early, think about what date you want the lease to end or when you intend to leave the property.

You may want to seek legal advice (see the other side of this brochure) and talk to your rental provider or real estate agent about changing your rental or residency agreement. If your rental provider agrees, you may not need to come to VCAT. If your rental provider does not agree, you may need to come to a VCAT hearing.

Applying to VCAT

Complete an *Application by person experiencing family or personal violence* online at: vcat.vic.gov.au/renting.

For printed forms, call us on **1300 01 8228 (1300 01 VCAT)**.

Submit your application to VCAT and send a copy to the rental provider and any other renter named on the tenancy agreement.

At a hearing

Be prepared and bring any documents that support your case.

Arrive 30 minutes before the hearing and check in with the VCAT customer service staff.

In some circumstances, you can ask to attend by telephone or use a remote witness facility. Talk to our support worker about this.

Each party will be given an opportunity to speak during the hearing.

VCAT is a tribunal and not as formal as a court. You can speak for yourself or find a lawyer or another representative to speak for you. See the other side of this brochure for organisations that may be able to help you.

For more about what happens at a hearing, visit vcat.vic.gov.au.

Other services

Free legal information and advice

Justice Connect

1800 606 313

justiceconnect.org.au

Tenants Victoria

1800 068 860

tenantsvic.org.au

Victoria Legal Aid

1300 792 387

legalaid.vic.gov.au

Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service

1800 064 865

vals.org.au

Family violence support

safe steps Family Violence Response Centre (24/7 response)

1800 015 188

safesteps.org.au

Elizabeth Morgan House

Aboriginal Women's Service

03 9482 5744

emhaws.org.au

inTouch (Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence)

1800 755 988

intouch.org.au

Magistrates' Court of Victoria Family Violence website

familyviolence.courts.vic.gov.au

VCAT support worker

If you are living in or have left a rented property and you have been or are experiencing family or personal violence, our family violence support worker can:

- help you to understand the VCAT process
- help you complete an application form and send (serve) documents
- connect you to other services for ongoing support
- in some circumstances support you during the VCAT hearing and provide remote witness facilities.

To contact the support worker:

☎ 03 9628 9856

9am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday

VCAT general enquiries

9am to 4:30 pm

Monday to Friday

✉ renting@vcat.vic.gov.au

☎ 1300 01 8228 (1300 01 VCAT)

👥 131 450

vcat.vic.gov.au/renting

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Changing your rental agreement

