



# Finding A Home After Violence

A road map of the barriers to safe, secure and affordable housing in British Columbia  
Take a moment to walk through the stages of a woman's journey looking for housing after violence.



## STEP 1

### Homelessness

In order to leave violence, she is forced to leave her home. However, many transition houses, safe homes and shelters have turned her away because they are full.

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## STEP 2

### Arrive with Nothing

Luckily, she finds beds for herself and her children at the local transition house but she left home without her ID. She will need to replace them before she can apply for any government programs to help with housing.

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## STEP 3

### Children's Safety

Her primary focus is to file a protection order, find a counsellor for her kids and enroll them in a new school. These things take time and make it difficult to look for a new home.

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## STEP 4

### Housing Applications

The process of applying for affordable housing takes a lot of time and there aren't many available units, period! She gives up on finding something close to the kid's school or public transit.

## STEP 6

### Deposit and References

The landlord asks for a deposit, credit check and references. She doesn't have good credit or references because of her abusive partner. The landlord refuses to give her a chance without references.

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## STEP 5

### Finding a Rental

She sees several units that she can barely afford but she thinks she may be able to make ends meet by foregoing groceries and using the Food Bank. Many landlords tell her that they won't rent to single-parent families. When she finds one who will, she tries to secure the place immediately.

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## STEP 7

### National Occupancy Standards

She learns that she's going to need a 3-bedroom place because of the National Occupancy Standards, which state that a daughter and son over 5 years old can't share a room. She starts to feel hopeless and considers returning home to her abusive partner.

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## STEP 8

### Few Options

She hopes the transition house will extend her stay because she has nowhere else to go.

Only 4%

of women are able to leave transition houses for an affordable home in BC. While 25% find housing (mostly beyond their means),

75% remain temporarily sheltered or return to their abuser.