



TOOLKIT– Helping Survivors Move Safely

In order to protect themselves and their families, survivors of abuse sometimes need to move quickly and with few financial resources. Included in this toolkit are materials to educate survivors and advocates on the laws that allow survivors to end their leases early and get their security deposits back after they move. The toolkit also includes template (fill-in-the-blank) letters survivors can use to explain and demand their housing rights. All the materials apply to tenant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking and elder or dependent adult abuse living in private and subsidized housing in California.

1. Know Your Rights: Early Lease Termination
 2. Template Letter: Survivors or Their Household Members Ending a Lease Early
 3. Template Letter: Survivor’s Immediate Family Member Ending a Lease Early
 4. Template Letter: Qualified Third-Party Early Lease Termination Verification
5. Know Your Rights: Security Deposits
 6. Template Letter: Demanding Your Security Deposit After Early Lease Termination
 7. Template Letter: Demanding Your Security Deposit

Additional Resources that May Help a Survivor Move Safely:

1. If moving to escape abuse, consider using California’s safe at home program to send/receive mail. Their website <https://www.sos.ca.gov/registries/safe-home> also has resources that explain other ways to maintain a confidential address, like confidential voting.
2. If you need help safety planning, please contact a domestic violence agency in your city/county. Find your local agency here: <https://www.cpedv.org/domestic-violence-organizations-california>.