



# Guidelines for Professional Persons: Understanding Interpersonal Violence or Sexual Violence

## 1. Purpose of the Professional Person Statement/Court Order Submission Form

When a tenant terminates a fixed term tenancy prior to the end of the term, the tenant is financially responsible for the remainder of the term if the landlord cannot find other tenants to rent the rental unit. The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes that this may prevent a tenant experiencing interpersonal violence or sexual violence from leaving a situation where the tenant or another cohabitant is at risk. In order to ensure the ongoing safety of victims of interpersonal violence or sexual violence, tenants can terminate their tenancies with 28 days of notice if they believe that their safety or the safety of another cohabitant is at risk. The Tenant can apply for a **Certificate Confirming Safety Risk** by providing information to a Professional Person who assesses and substantiates the Tenant's need for this certification.

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## 2. Who can complete this form?

Under *The Victims of Interpersonal Violence Act*, a professional can provide a written statement indicating that a person is subject to interpersonal violence or sexual violence. Professionals may include:

- a regulated member of the:
  - Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers;
  - Saskatchewan College of Psychologists;
  - a duly qualified medical practitioner;
  - a practising member of the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association; or
  - a practising member of the Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Saskatchewan
- a police officer or a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- an individual employed and authorized by an agency or organization that:
  - provides accommodation in an emergency or transitional shelter because of homelessness or abuse; or
  - provides support initiatives for victims of interpersonal violence or sexual violence.

## 3. What does interpersonal violence look like?

Interpersonal violence may include any of the following behaviours: physical abuse, psychological abuse, criminal harassment/stalking, forced confinement, verbal abuse, sexual abuse, financial abuse, spiritual abuse, or any injury to property damage that intimidates or causes harm to a person. The below is a non-exhaustive list of actions that can constitute interpersonal violence.

### Physical Abuse

Pushed, shoved or kicked  Hit or punched  Weapons or objects used against the individual  Slapped or bitten  Locked out or denied access to home  By physical force, not being allowed to leave  Denied help when ill, injured or pregnant  Strangled/Choked  Abandoned in a dangerous situation

### Emotional and Psychological Abuse

Threats to harm the individual, his/her family or pets  Individual convinced he/she is to blame for abuse  Beliefs, race, heritage, class, religion, or sexual orientation ridiculed  Manipulated with lies and contradictions  Stalked

### Sexual Abuse

Forced/Coerced to have sex or watch sexual acts  Forced to have sex after a physical assault, when ill or as a condition of the relationship  Forced/Coerced to perform sexual acts or have sexual acts performed on them  Act directed against a person's sexuality using coercion

### Economic Abuse

Denied access to bank accounts, credit cards or vehicle  Partner controls all the finances  Access to health, prescription or dental insurance limited  Prevented from getting or keeping a job or from going to school

## 4. What does sexual violence look like?

Activities identified as sexual abuse above may also be forms of sexual violence. The below is not an exhaustive list of activities that could constitute sexual violence:

### Sexual Violence

Forced/Coerced to have sex or watch sexual acts  Forced to have sex after a physical assault, when ill or as a condition of the relationship  Forced/Coerced to perform sexual acts or have sexual acts performed on them  Acts directed against a person's sexuality using coercion  sexual harassment  sexual exploitation  online forms of violence, exploitation, or harassment of a sexual nature  voyeurism  trafficking for a sexual purpose