

Termination of tenancy in circumstances of domestic violence

Purpose of this declaration

Under the *Residential Tenancies Act 2010*, a tenant can terminate a residential tenancy agreement without being penalised if the tenant is in circumstances of domestic violence.

To terminate the agreement, the tenant must give to the tenant's landlord a termination notice together with one of the documents that the Act requires to be annexed to a domestic violence termination notice. One of those specified documents is a signed declaration by a medical practitioner that the tenant is a victim of domestic violence perpetrated by the "relevant domestic violence offender" during the currency of the residential tenancy agreement.

A "relevant domestic violence offender" must be the tenant's co-tenant or former co-tenant, or an occupant or former occupant of the tenant's residence or a person with whom the tenant has or has had a domestic relationship. For this reason, the tenant has to identify a particular person and the name of that person has to be recorded in this declaration.

Note: The use of the term "relevant domestic violence offender" is only for the purposes of establishing whether the tenant is in circumstances of domestic violence under the Act. It does not mean that the person identified by the tenant as the perpetrator of the domestic violence has been convicted of a domestic violence offence.

Who can make this declaration

You can only make this declaration if:

- you are a medical practitioner registered under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (NSW)* in the medical profession, and
- you have consulted with the tenant.

How to fill in this form

The medical practitioner must complete all parts of this form.

1. Before you complete this form, you will need to assess if, in your professional opinion, the tenant is a victim of domestic violence that occurred during the tenant's current tenancy.
2. **You are not required to prove that an incident of domestic violence has taken place.**
Your assessment should be based on your professional observations and the information you obtain during your consultation.
3. Once you have made your assessment, you should complete this form by:
 - (a) entering the details of the tenant, and
 - (b) entering the name of the relevant domestic violence offender, based on the information provided to you by the tenant, and
 - (c) nominating the type of relationship between the tenant and the relevant domestic violence offender, based on the information provided to you by the tenant.
4. Give the completed declaration to the tenant and keep a copy for your records.
5. For further information on how to complete this form go to www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au.

WARNING: Knowingly providing false or misleading information in connection with this declaration may be an offence under section 105H of the *Residential Tenancies Act 2010*, for which a maximum penalty of 2 years imprisonment or 100 penalty units, or both, applies.

It is not an offence to make a declaration based on information that you believed to be true at the time of making the declaration.

PART 1: Details of tenant seeking to terminate the tenancy / be declared a victim of domestic violence

Family name:

Given names:

Address of the rented residential premises:

Suburb:

State:

Postcode:

Telephone number (include area code if applicable):

Note: A separate form needs to be completed, and declaration made, for each tenant seeking to be declared a victim of domestic violence.

PART 2: Details of relevant domestic violence offender and relationship with tenant

1. Who is the person **identified by the tenant** as the perpetrator of the domestic violence?

Full name:

2. Is the person named above (in question 1 in this Part) a co-tenant/former co-tenant or an occupant/former occupant of the residential premises specified in Part 1? Yes No

If the answer to question 2 is “No”, the following question MUST be completed.

3. What is the relationship the tenant has or had with the person named above (“the relevant domestic violence offender”)? [Select the description of the most recent relationship and cross out “are” or “were” as applicable]

The tenant and the relevant domestic violence offender are/were:

- married to each other
- in a de facto relationship with each other
- in an intimate personal relationship with each other, whether or not the relationship is/was a sexual relationship
- living in the same household
- living as long-term residents in the same residential facility at the same time as each other (excluding facilities that are correctional centres or detention centres)
- in a relationship involving the tenant’s dependence on the ongoing paid or unpaid care of the tenant by the relevant domestic violence offender
- relatives
- in the case of Aboriginal persons or Torres Strait Islanders—in an extended family or kinship relationship according to the Indigenous kinship system of the culture of either the tenant or the relevant domestic violence offender

If the answer to question 2 in this Part is “No” and the tenant and the person named above are NOT in any of the relationships listed above (in question 3 in this Part), that person CANNOT be a relevant domestic violence offender for the purpose of making a declaration and PART 3 CANNOT BE COMPLETED.

PART 3: Declaration by medical practitioner

I declare that:

I personally consulted with the **tenant** in my professional capacity as a medical practitioner on
(date of consultation):

Date (dd/mm/yyyy)

On the basis of information obtained and observations made in the course of that consultation, I have
formed the view that (name of tenant):

is a victim of domestic violence perpetrated by the person named by the tenant in question 1 of Part 2, being
the relevant domestic violence offender on/during the period [cross out the words that are not applicable]:

(date on which, or period during which, the domestic violence was perpetrated).

Full name:

Signature:

Registration number:

Date (dd/mm/yyyy):

Please keep a copy of this form and all attachments for your records.

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