



# CHANGING YOUR PLACE OF RESIDENCE

when you are subjected to  
threats and violence in close

***Maybe you have received help from the social services to move to a women's refuge or other safe accommodation? Many women and children need to relocate after their stay in safe accommodation, in order to plan for a future free from intimidation and violence.***

This brochure provides you with information about opportunities for you to create conditions for a more secure future and what the law says about the responsibility of social services to help victims of violence to be able to relocate.

There are also contact details for ALVA Women's Refuge that can help you with your application and with other contacts with authorities. Here you can also get advice, support and answers to your questions about how the legislation can be used.

## **The information is aimed at those of you who:**

- are subjected to threats and violence and who need to create conditions for a safer future elsewhere
- work at a women's refuge or other safe accommodation and come into contact with abused women and their children
- work within social services, health and medical care, schools etc., and who require knowledge of the laws and regulations that apply to relocation

## **The Swedish Social Services Act Chapter 2 a Section 8 paragraph 2**

These regulations came about in 2011 to provide support for people who have been subjected to violence or other abuse. The regulations allow a person the right to apply for support and help, including housing, in the municipality to which he or she wishes to relocate.

## **Who do the new regulations apply to?**

There are no entirely clear rules, except that the person concerned must have been the victim of violence. However, according to the guidelines, the regulations apply to those whose personal data is protected and who are unable personally to apply for housing. It is particularly important to take children's needs into account.

## **How do I go about using the legislation?**

Start by finding out which municipality you want and can move to. Maybe you are already living at a refuge in a municipality you wish to stay in. Maybe there is a threat scenario in one part of Sweden which means that you need to move elsewhere.

Get help from people you can trust or from ALVA Women's Refuge. If a risk assessment has been carried out by the police or social services, this could be a good starting point.

## **The application should be in writing**

You should put forward your request in writing to the social services in the municipality you wish to move to, even if a verbal application also applies. It is often helpful to think through the reasons as to why you need to move and where - get help from people who know your situation or ALVA Women's Refuge.

## **Decision of the social services**

You always have the right to receive a decision in writing from the social services. If you are not satisfied with the decision, you have the right to appeal.

An appeal must be in writing and must be submitted within 3 weeks of the date you received the decision.

Read the decision carefully, write in your own words why you disagree with the reasons for the rejection and submit the appeal on time. You don't need to express yourself in any particular way. Write down what you want to say and describe your situation in as much detail as possible. Avoid being too sweeping in your descriptions – describe your feelings and experiences clearly and if possible, give examples.

Again - ask if you need any help!

## **Social services can do the search for you (Chapter 2 a Sections 10 and 11 SoL)**

It is also possible for the social services to request a transfer to a new municipality where you would want to live. If you have a social worker helping you with your plans you may want to get help with the transfer instead of personally applying to the new municipality.

If the new municipality has not responded to your social worker within a month, or if the two municipalities cannot agree, your social worker may instead apply for a transfer through IVO (the Health and Social Care Inspectorate). The IVO will come to a decision, within three months.

# Is there anything else you need to know or do you require practical help?

ALVA Women's Refuge spreads knowledge about the rights of women under the Swedish Social Services Act when they are subjected to threats and violence in close relationships and need to relocate. We want to empower women in their ability to influence their own situation.

Within ALVA Women's Refuge we can offer help with formulating applications, appeals or other documents. We also provide advice and support to other parties involved, such as women's refuges, social services, health and medical care etc.

**Please don't hesitate to contact us!**

We welcome both individuals and authorities to contact ALVA Women's Refuge for further information or advice and support:

**Tel: +46 (0) 705-08 44 31**

**[info@alvakvinnojour.se](mailto:info@alvakvinnojour.se)**

**[www.alvakvinnojour.se](http://www.alvakvinnojour.se)**

