

# Home Takeover: Response Pathway

Identification: disclosure may come from the target (tenant), a family member, friend and/or neighbour

Does the situation meet the definition of a Home Takeover? Y/N

Definition: "Situations in which vulnerable tenants are forced to accommodate unwanted guests in their homes. During home takeovers, vulnerable tenants [may initially] allow people into their homes to fulfill unmet social, economic, and personal needs. In the process, the tenant is threatened physically, financially, and/or psychologically."

(The Dream Team, Safe at Home Research Project)

Does the target answer "yes" to any of the questions in the "Welcomed Guest or Home Takeover Checklist?"  
If yes, the target may be experiencing a home takeover.

## Service Providers

Affirm with the target the right to feel safe in one's own home. Create (if not already done) or refer to the plans, goals and boundaries to help guide action.

To protect the target's safety, meet privately in a place where the perpetrator or others will not overhear when discussing the takeover. Obtain permission from target to consult with housing provider and/or refer to other agencies as needed. Call 911 to have the perpetrator(s) removed from the property if the tenant is in danger.

### Housing Providers:

Educate target about their rights, responsibilities and consequences they could face if the situation goes unresolved. Use common language and review paperwork (if applicable) together to ensure the tenant clearly understands the plan.

The Housing Worker and Police can work together to make the environment uncomfortable for the perpetrator(s). Increase security measures including surveillance (if required).

## If unsure who to call or after hours, call 211

211's Community Navigators will support the target over the phone if they call 211 requesting support for a home takeover. The Housing and Homelessness team will activate pathways for system navigation (i.e. YMCA Housing, Non-Emergency Police).

Intervention will vary depending on the target's circumstances, needs and strengths. The checklist below can assist in assessing community efforts to respond. Consider: Who needs to be involved to resolve the takeover? Is the target willing to participate in remediation efforts? What services is the target already connected to? What additional services (if any) would the target benefit from at this time? Is the target willing to provide consent to consult/refer to community partners?

### What services will the **target** be referred to?

- Housing Provider: Grey County – 519-376-5744
- Owen Sound Police Services - Non-Emergency - 519-376-1234
- Victim Assistance Program: If consent provided, police services will refer
- Fire Department – 519-376-2512
- Mental Health and Addictions
  - Canadian Mental Health Association – 519-371-3642
  - GBHS Mental Health and Addictions Services - 519-376-2121 ext. 2460
  - Withdrawal Management Services - 519-376-5666
  - Support Outreach Services (SOS) Team- 519-379-8743
- Bruce Grey Child and Family Services –519-371-4453 (speak with a screener)
- M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre-519-371-1147
- Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre-519-376-5508
- Grey Bruce Community Legal Clinic – 519-370-2200
- Other (i.e. United Way Financial Literacy Program)

### What services will the **perpetrator** be referred to?

- Housing Provider: Grey County – 519-376-5744
- Owen Sound Police Services-Non-Emergency-519-376-1234
- YMCA Housing Services – 519-371-9230 ext. 5
- Safe n' Sound Residence – 519-470-2222
- Mental Health and Addictions
  - Canadian Mental Health Association – 519-371-3642
  - GBHS Mental Health and Addictions Services - 519-376-2121 ext. 2460
  - Withdrawal Management Services - 519-376-5666
  - Support Outreach Services (SOS) Team- 519-379-8743
- Bruce Grey Child and Family Services 519-371-4453 (speak with a screener)
- M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre-519-371-1147
- Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre-519-376-5508
- Other (i.e. Women's Shelter)

**211 will refer individuals to the most appropriate services and support 24 hrs/day 7 days/week**