



How to Prevent and Address Home Takeovers

What is a Home Take Over?

A “home takeover” is defined as a situation in which a legitimate tenant or home owner finds themselves unsafe, physically, financially or psychologically, because of the presence of people in their home that they may or may not be able to remove. Home takeovers are also termed “cuckooing” in reference to the cuckoo bird that invades another bird's nest.

These situations can range in severity from theft to serious assault; involve a range of relationships from family to drug dealing; take advantage of the legitimate tenant’s vulnerabilities (e.g., addiction, isolation, developmental disability, health issue); and always leave the legitimate tenant or homeowner uncomfortable and at risk of losing their home.

Preventing and Addressing Home Takeovers

Your home should be your safe place. Don’t let others come in and take over your home. Get help. See the following resources that can assist you or someone you are working with:

Eight short home takeovers videos (available in English and French). You can also find the videos by searching “Home Takeovers” on www.youtube.com. The first introduction video is followed by the others which each highlight a different kind of home takeover (i.e., general isolation, developmental disabilities, addictions, youth, gangs and older adults).

A Home Takeovers Guidebook - meant for service providers, this guidebook includes suggestions for prevention, identification, intervention and aftercare. You can also find the guide book by doing a Google search for “Crime Prevention Ottawa and Home Takeovers Guidebook.”

For more information or to connect with support, visit www.lutherwood.ca/housing or contact Lutherwood Housing Resource Centres Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm:

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