

LEGAL INTERVIEWING SKILLS
CLIENT SCENARIO A

My name is Andy / Andrea Holt and I am a single parent. I have a child at primary school. I live in private rented accommodation – a first floor flat I shared with my former partner. We both lived there until our relationship broke down 3 weeks ago; unfortunately it has been acrimonious.

I have a rent book and pay the rent monthly in arrears. The rent book is in our names. I have to give 3 months' notice to leave the flat. The rent is significantly below market rate, so I would like to stay on.

My landlord is a friend of my 'ex'. He [the landlord] lives in the flat below mine, and my 'ex' has moved in with him since we separated. It is quite clear they have decided to make my life miserable as they have now given me 1 month's notice to leave my flat. I have told them I am not going to move as I believe my tenancy is protected. This was the advice from my friend who is a first year law student.

More recently, they have taken to harassing me. So far their actions have included: playing loud music late into the night, leaving rubbish outside my front door to impede my access to my flat, refusing to undertake maintenance of my flat as per the rental agreement and being aggressive and generally unpleasant to me.

I do not want to move and am prepared to stand up to them, but all this activity is having an impact on my child, whose school work has suffered since the harassment began. Worse yet, she is having trouble sleeping at night because of the noise. Last night she told me that she blamed me for all this as I was the one who caused the separation between my 'ex' and I. I admit I did flirt with one of the waiters at the restaurant the night we ended our relationship, but nothing happened between us, and if my 'ex' wasn't so jealous and possessive, we would still be together.