

Right of residence

Victims of domestic violence often fear that they may lose their right of residence if they separate from their partner. It is important to get information from a counselling centre. Counselling does not put your right of residence at risk.

Important to know

If you obtained your right of residence in Switzerland through marriage (family reunification) and experience domestic violence, you may also be able to stay in Switzerland after separation, depending on the situation.

Temporarily living somewhere other than at your marital address (e.g. at a women's shelter or a friend's apartment) does not result in the loss of a residence permit. Since the legal situation in the case of separation is complex and every situation is different, it can be helpful to seek advice.

It is important to keep evidence of violent incidents. We recommend the following:

- Take photos of injuries and screenshots of threats or insults that you receive on WhatsApp, Facebook etc.
- Keep the evidence somewhere safe. For example, with a friend or at work.
- Inform some people in your environment about the violence, such as someone in your circle of friends, from work, the neighbourhood or school.

Where can I get help?

In case of any questions about the right of residence following a separation, you can obtain advice here:

Opferberatung Aargau, 062 835 47 90 or chat, www.opferberatung-ag.ch

An expert will explain the current legal situation and help you with the next steps. The advice is free and confidential. A translation service can also be provided.

Additional information (links, addresses, information sheets, brochures)

dev.hallo-aargau.ch/en/haeusliche-gewalt/aufenthaltsrecht