



FAMILY SERVICES OTTAWA  
SERVICES À LA FAMILLE OTTAWA



# 10 SIGNS OF Financial Abuse

**INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE  
CAN TAKE MANY FORMS  
INCLUDING FINANCIAL ABUSE.**

## What is financial abuse?

Financial abuse can be defined as controlling someone's ability to gain, use, and maintain financial resources. The behaviour typically creates financial dependence on the abuser.

**50%**  
In Canada, it is estimated that 50% of women in shelters have experienced financial abuse







# 10 SIGNS OF Financial Abuse

- Taking control of all the finances and making you feel that you cannot handle financial decisions
- Withholding money and information about finances
- Asking financial questions leads to arguments
- You are forced to account for all spending or show receipts when your partner does not do the same
- You are given a limited spending allowance
- Credit is opened in your name without your consent and/or damaging your credit history
- You are not allowed to work, or you are forced to work in low-paying jobs
- Interfering with your job to put your employment at risk
- Your partner spends household money (i.e., grocery money) on themselves
- Your partner threatens to leave and not provide any financial support.

**Even after a relationship breakdown, the abuse can continue.** This can take the form of hiding income to prevent paying child support or not filing taxes so that benefits like the Canada Child Benefit cannot be calculated.



**In US research, 94 to 99% of women in an abusive relationship have experienced financial abuse.**

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