

My client Damien visited the Manna advice service unwell, distressed, and running out of options. He had become homeless more than a year ago, after separating from his wife, and leaving their family home. He had approached the council as someone at risk of homelessness before he had left and had informed the council when he did in fact become homeless. The council had responded that they could not assist, as his name was still on the tenancy of the property now occupied by his wife and children, meaning that they could not technically recognize him as homeless. They suggested that he still had a legal right to the property which he could enforce. However, Damien's relationship with his wife had broken down to the point at which this was not at all tenable. The council then suggested that he get his name removed from the tenancy. Damien duly went to a different department of the council and signed the necessary paperwork to do this, but then did not receive a response for many months. At this point Damien, who suffers from heart problems, was sofa surfing and becoming increasingly more unwell and despairing. When he attended the Manna Centre, we were able to advocate for him to both the council and the department responsible for removing his name from the tenancy. He was eventually placed in temporary accommodation.