# Birmingham family faces homelessness after tragic events



A family of four from Birmingham is currently in a precarious housing situation, having become homeless after a series of unfortunate events, including the sudden death of the children's father. Toni Vale, the mother, has been navigating a complex and challenging system of local council responses regarding their housing needs, which has left her and her three children without a permanent home.

Toni Vale, aged 38, is the mother of three children—ages four, eleven, and fifteen. Their troubles began in earnest following the unexpected passing of her partner at their home. This incident triggered a "domino effect of bad luck," ultimately leading to their eviction from a private rental property when the landlord ceased mortgage payments. The family has been living in a state of uncertainty, moving from one hotel to another, and facing substantial challenges due to a waiting list for housing in Birmingham, which currently stands at an overwhelming 26,000 applicants.

Initially, Vale sought assistance from Birmingham City Council, but they referred her to Sandwell Council, arguing that the family had no established connections to Birmingham. This decision has been met with frustration by Vale, who emphasised that her children have attended schools in Birmingham for over 13 years and their doctors and family support systems are also based there.

Speaking about her situation, Vale indicated that her family was currently staying in a hotel in Kingstanding—one that she is funding herself to ensure her children can maintain their education. “I’ve secured a private property now and I move in sometime this week. I’ve got to pay for a hotel in Kingstanding so the kids can get to school. I wouldn’t have let them miss out,” she stated.

In response to the family’s situation, a spokesperson from Birmingham City Council conveyed that the initial assessment of Vale’s application for housing was deemed appropriate based on the information presented at the time. The council acknowledged the distressing nature of homelessness and pledged to review new information as it arises. "Being made homeless is a damaging and stressful event that many people find themselves in. It is a priority for the council to do all we can to prevent homelessness from happening and to support people and families who find themselves in this situation," the spokesperson added.

The council further clarified that with approximately 26,000 individuals on the housing register, demand for social housing exceeds supply, making the search for housing an arduous task for many. They advised applicants to consider alternatives, such as privately rented accommodations, to mitigate the effects of this high demand.

As the Vale family prepares to move into a new privately rented property, the circumstances surrounding their plight underscore the difficulties many families face in securing stable housing amid bureaucratic challenges and resource constraints faced by local councils.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.birminghamtimes.com/> - This URL provides information about community issues and local news in Birmingham, which could include housing challenges and community responses.
* <https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/rulesofcourt.pdf> - Although not directly related to the specific situation in Birmingham, this document provides insight into legal and procedural aspects that might influence housing and council decisions in general.
* <https://hopeatlanta.org/who-we-are/> - This organization focuses on combating homelessness, which is relevant to understanding the broader challenges faced by families like the Vale family in securing stable housing.
* <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/22/2024-07496/guidance-for-federal-financial-assistance> - This document provides guidance on federal financial assistance, which could be relevant to funding for housing programs and support services.
* <https://oneplacebirmingham.com/staff-and-board-of-directors/> - While focused on family justice, this organization highlights the importance of community support and resources, which are crucial for families facing housing challenges.