

References

When you rent a home, the landlord or letting agent will almost always want a reference (often two). These cannot be from friends or family. One is always your previous landlord. The other (if needed) is often an employer or other professional person who knows you.

This is not as difficult as it sounds. Firstly, decide who your references are going to be.

Previous landlord –

If you can use your previous landlord, that's great. However, often that's not possible. In this case, you should write a clear letter explaining why you don't have a reference: for example, perhaps you owned your last home.

Employer/professional person –

If you have an employer, then they are an ideal reference. If you do not, then you will have to think of what other person could serve as a professional referee. This can be a doctor, lawyer, police officer, teacher... there are quite a few options available.

Once you know this, let your **referee** (that's what someone who gives a reference is called) know that they may be contacted for a reference. Then, when you actually choose a home, you need to have their details to put down on a form. This always includes:

- o Name
- o Address
- o Occupation
- o Phone number
- o Email address

When the landlord or letting agent contacts them, they will either be asked to fill in a short form, or just provide a quick letter saying that they think you're suitable as a tenant. Referees are NOT liable for anything if the tenancy does not work out.