



# Family Law

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YOUR EX DOES!



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LAWYER

## Q

When we were dating, my boyfriend was very sweet, but six months into living together and things have changed. He wants to control all my purchases, wants access to my bank account without giving me his, had me pay for his car repairs, and borrowed \$10,000 from me which he isn't paying back. Is this a problem or should I just roll with it? I really love him.

## A

Often, our gut knows what our heart denies; in this case you nailed it when you talked about your boyfriend wanting to control your finances. 99% of all abusive relationships contain financial abuse. Financial abuse is a type of domestic violence and is a form of bullying, which occurs when someone else uses abusive tactics to control your financial situation for their benefit. Generally, it starts off small, and often involves gaslighting "I thought I had a \$20 bill in my purse" and escalates to more overt behaviour. Long-term results can cripple your credit rating.

Here is a partial checklist of examples of financial abuse:

- what you earn is "ours" and he spends it, what he earns is "his"
- he insists on access to your bank account, controls your paycheck
- you are guilted into paying for most or all of household expenses and his money goes to expensive

- purchases he wants
- you find your credit debt increased, your savings decreased/ disappeared, voluntarily or involuntarily
- you are on a "budget", and must account to him for every purchase
- money goes missing, out of the tip jar, the rainy-day money, your wallet, bank accounts
- your job is jeopardized through personal phone calls, making you late for work, or he won't let you work

Financial abuse happens with any age and gender. Get out, get help with a lawyer and/or financial counsellor.

Your friends at Shank Law.



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