

Confirmation of Abuse

Professionals who are eligible to provide verification of abuse:

- doctor
- lawyer
- teacher
- nurse
- shelter worker
- law enforcement officer
- guidance counselor
- victim services worker
- settlement services worker
- community health care worker
- registered social worker or social service worker
- an individual in a managerial or administrative position with a housing provider
- community legal worker
- anyone who knows about the abuse
- minister of religion authorized under provincial law to perform marriages

To be completed by the verifier:

The verifier must answer all the questions below for the applicant to be reviewed for priority.

I have a **professional** relationship with this client and am eligible to complete this form. *(As outlined in the list above.)* Yes No

I have reviewed the information on the back of this form and my professional assessment is that the applicant has experienced abuse *(as defined on the back of this form.)* Yes No

I have attached a letter providing a detailed account of the applicant's situation of abuse. *(Please refer to the list of indicators on this form as a guide.)* Yes No

I am aware of my responsibility in providing the confirmation of abuse and declare that the information I have provided is an accurate account of the applicant's situation. Yes No

Name:	Position/Title:	Organization:
Address:	Postal code:	Telephone:
Signature:	Date:	

To be completed by the applicant:

I, _____ hereby authorize and consent to the completion of this form and its submission to Housing Connections and the disclosure to Housing Connections of any additional information it may request to clarify the information in this form.

Signature _____ Date _____
 Name _____ Application _____
 printed _____ number _____

Personal information contained on this form is collected under the authority of the Housing Services Act, 2011, c.6 and subject to Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, S.O. 1990, c. M.56. The information will be used to determine current/or inclusion in the Special Priority Household category.

Eligibility for inclusion in the Special Priority Household Category

The *Housing Services Act* gives priority access to social housing applicants whose personal safety, or whose family's safety is at risk because of abuse by an individual with whom they live. This special priority is to enable the applicant household to separate permanently from the abuser. Housing Services Act, 2011

Priority status allows applicants to move ahead of all other applicants on waiting lists for housing and is reserved for those who truly need it. It is not meant for applicants who simply want to separate from someone because the relationship is not working.

Definition of Abuse

Abuse includes physical or sexual violence; intentional destruction of, or intentional injury to a person's property; words, actions, or gestures that threaten a person or his or her property; harassment; stalking or controlling behaviour.

Indicators of Abuse

Please refer to the following list of what is considered to be 'indicators of abuse' for the purposes of this policy in assessing the applicant's situation:

1. A record of intervention by the police indicating that the applicant was abused by the abusing individual.
2. A record of physical injury caused to the applicant by the abusing individual.
3. A record of the application of force by the abusing individual against the applicant to force the applicant to engage in sexual activity against his or her will.
4. A record of one or more attempts to kill the applicant or another member of the household.
5. A record of the use of a weapon against the applicant or another member of the household.
6. A record of one or more incidents of abuse, including the following:
 - Threatening to kill the applicant or another member of the household
 - Threatening to use a weapon against the applicant or another member of the household
 - Threatening to physically harm the applicant or another member of the household
 - Destroying or injuring or threatening to destroy or injure the applicant's property
 - Intentionally killing or injuring pets or threatening to kill or injure pets
 - Threatening to harm or remove the applicant's children from the household
 - Threatening to prevent the applicant from having access to his or her children
 - Forcing the applicant to perform degrading or humiliating acts
 - Terrorizing the applicant
 - Enforcing social isolation upon the applicant
 - Failing to provide or withholding the necessities of life
 - Threatening to withdraw from sponsoring the applicant as an immigrant
 - Threatening to take action that might lead to the applicant being deported
 - Other words, actions or gestures that threaten the applicant or lead the applicant to fear for his or her safety
7. A record of undue or unwarranted control by the abusing individual over the applicant's personal and financial activities.
8. A record of one or more incidents of stalking or harassing behaviour against the applicant or another member of the household.