Hastings County
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Hastings County Housing Services
Application for Special Priority Status

The *Housing Services Act, 2011*, and *Ontario Regulation 367/11* prioritizes housing applicants experiencing domestic violence and/or human trafficking. Special Priority status is intended to assist households fleeing domestic violence and/or human trafficking to separate permanently from someone who is abusing you.

In order to qualify for Special Priority status, you must:

- Be eligible for rent-geared-to-income (RGI) assistance; and
- Meet the eligibility criteria for Special Priority status.

The household member making the request for Special Priority must inform Hastings County Housing Services of the way in which they would like to receive information relating to their request for Special Priority. The following information will be kept confidential and used only for the purpose of assessing eligibility for Special Priority Status.

Applicant Information

Name: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Date of Birth _____ S.I.N. _____

Safe Contact Information

By Telephone:

Name of Contact: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

By Mail:

Mailing Address: _____

_____

Definitions

Section 1, Ontario Regulation 367/11 defines **abuse** as any of the following done against a member of a household by an abuser:

- physical or sexual violence;
- controlling behaviour;
- intentional destruction of property or intentional injury to property;
- words, actions or gestures that threaten a person or lead them to fear for their safety; or
- trafficking of a person by any individual

Section 1, Ontario Regulation 367/11 defines **trafficking** as one or more incidents of recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a person by improper means for an illegal purpose, including sexual exploitation or forced labour.

The regulation states that "improper means" includes:

- force;
- abduction;
- coercion;
- deception; or
- repeatedly providing a controlled substance

**If granted, there are circumstances where Special Priority Status can be revoked:*

- If the applicant notifies the service manager that they want the abusing/trafficking individual to be a part of the member's application;
- If the applicant notifies the service manager that the abusing/trafficking individual is deceased;
- If the applicant accepts an offer of RGI assistance, whether or not that offer comes from a housing provider within the service area of the service manager.

Important Note

The applicant's request cannot be considered without this completed form **AND** a letter from the verifying professional. The letter must include:

- Organization letterhead;
- Professional's name and signature;
- Professional's occupation designation (if applicable);
- The date the letter was prepared;
- A statement that the Professional has reasonable grounds to believe that the applicant is/was abused and/or trafficked;
- A description of the circumstances which indicate that the person is/was abused and/or trafficked; and
- The name of the applicant.

Please choose one of the following before moving on to the next section:

☐ I am applying as a victim of domestic violence

OR

☐ I am applying as a victim of human trafficking

Declaration of Abused Individual

I declare that I, or someone in my household are a victim of domestic violence and/or human trafficking and:

☐ I/We are currently living with the abuser/trafficker

☐ I/We have not lived with the abuser/trafficker since (DD/MM/YYYY): _____

☐ I/We have never lived with the abuser/trafficker

☐ The abuser/trafficker is my Sponsor for Canadian Immigration

☐ I/We intend to separate from, and live permanently apart from the abuser/trafficker

Full Name of Abuser/Trafficker: _____

Abuser/Trafficker Relationship to Applicant:
□ Spouse/Partner
□ Parent
□ Child
□ Immigration Sponsor (verification required)
□ Individual who is or has trafficked a member of the household
□ Other (must describe): _____

If the household member has not lived with the abuser or been trafficked in the past 3 months, please indicate why a request for Special Priority Status has not been completed until now?

_____

_____

_____

Applicant Declaration Statement:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Professional Verification of Abuse

Applicants who are granted Special Priority status, are prioritized on the centralized waitlist for affordable housing and are given the highest priority for housing offers. Hastings County Housing Services relies on the assessment and written verification of abuse from a defined list of professionals to ensure that applicants meet all of the eligibility criteria for this priority.

Professional Relationship to Applicant: I am working with the applicant around the issue of domestic violence and/or human trafficking in my professional capacity as a:

- □ Doctor
- □ Registered Nurse or Registered Practical Nurse
- □ Lawyer
- □ Law Enforcement Officer
- □ Minister of Religion Authorized under Provincial Law to Perform Marriages
- □ Registered Early Childhood Educator
- □ Teacher
- □ Guidance Counsellor
- □ Individual in a Managerial or Administrative Position with a Housing Provider
- □ Indigenous Elder, Indigenous Traditional Person, or Indigenous Knowledge Keeper
- □ Member of the College of Midwives of Ontario
- □ Indigenous Person who Provides Traditional Midwifery Service
- □ Registered Social Worker or Registered Social Service Worker
- □ Psychotherapist, Registered Psychotherapist, or Registered Mental Health Therapist

Declaration of Professional

Full Name: _____ Position/Title: _____

Professional Designation, if applicable: _____ Registration Number: _____

Organization: _____ Telephone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

How long have you known/worked with the applicant in a professional capacity? _____

I have a professional relationship with the applicant that extends beyond completing this verification document. Y / N

I have reviewed the information on this form and in my professional capacity, have assessed and verified that my client is a victim of domestic violence and/or human trafficking. Y / N

I have attached a letter meeting the requirements outlined on page 2 of this application. Y / N

I declare, to the best of my knowledge, that the information I have provided in the attached letter is a true and accurate account of the household's situation. Y / N

Signature: _____ Date: _____