



## District of Rainy River Services Board

# Request for Special Priority For Survivors of Domestic Abuse or Human Trafficking

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### INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

#### What is special priority status?

Special priority is intended to support survivors of abuse or human trafficking to permanently separate from their abuser by providing priority access to subsidized or rent-geared-to-income (RGI) housing. Special priority is for applicants whose safety is at risk from domestic abuse or trafficking and does not apply to applicants who want to separate because a relationship is not working or to applicants in a housing crisis.

- **“Abuse”** means one or more incidents of: physical or sexual violence, controlling behaviour; OR intentional destruction of or intentional injury to property; OR words, actions or gestures that threaten a household member to fear for his or her safety; and that are done by specific individuals.
- **“Trafficking”** means, with respect to a member of a household, one or more incidents of recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of the member by improper means, including force, abduction, fraud, coercion, deception and repeated provision of a controlled substance, for an illegal purpose, including sexual exploitation or forced labour.

The *Housing Services Act, 2011 Ontario Regulation 298/01, Section 24 (Special Priority Household Category)*, gives priority access to social housing applicant 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.

Applicants approved for special priority status are prioritized according to their application date ahead of all other non-priority households on the wait list for subsidized housing.

#### Who is eligible for Special Priority status?

You may be approved for special priority if one of the following applies:

- You are currently living with someone who is abusing you or another person in your household.
- You used to live with someone who was abusing you or another person in your household and stopped living with them within the last three months.
- You are currently being trafficked or experienced trafficking within the last three months.

The confirmation of abuse must be verified by any of the following professions; a doctor, a lawyer, a law enforcement officer, a member of the clergy, a teacher, a guidance counselor, an individual in a managerial or administrative position, a community health worker, a social worker, a victim services worker, a settlement service worker, an RN or RPN, or a shelter worker, as may be defined under the *Housing Service Act, 2011 O. Reg. 298/01*.

- I have reviewed the information about the verification process and indicators of abuse necessary to access eligibility for social housing under the *Special Priority Status Policy* for applicants who are abused. The applicant (named below) to whom I have provided services/assistance and whose experiences of abuse I am aware of, should be given Special Priority Status for housing.
- I have attached a letter providing information about the applicant's situation.
- I am aware of my responsibility in providing confirmation of abuse and declare that the information I have provided is an accurate account of the applicant's situation.
- I am a professional who is eligible to complete this form as outlined in this document.

**Completed by**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position/Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>
<b>Address</b>	<b>Postal Code</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>	

**To be Completed by Applicant**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby authorize and give my consent to:

**A. The completion of this form and its submission to the RRDSSAB, and The disclosure to the RRDSSAB of any additional information it may request to clarify the information contained on this form.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**