



Applicants with Adverse History Policy

Purpose

To outline how the Department of Communities (Housing) manages requests from applicants applying for further assistance with adverse housing history with Housing.

Scope

This policy relates to former public housing tenants with an adverse history as well as applicants who have acted in a violent or threatening manner towards Housing staff, applying for further housing assistance with the Department of Communities (Housing).

Policy statements

1. Refusal of Housing Assistance

Housing has the authority to refuse any application for housing assistance.

Housing may refuse housing assistance to any client who has:

- a. Acted in a violent or threatening manner towards staff performing their duties.
- b. Been charged or convicted of intentionally or negligently causing or permitting significant damage (including fire) to a Housing property.
- c. Previously been convicted of an offence amounting to the operation, or intent to operate, a drug laboratory from a Housing property.

Decisions relating to the refusal of housing assistance are appealable as per the Housing Appeals Mechanism Policy.

2. Applicants with a Priority Housing Need

An applicant with adverse housing history who has a priority housing need, may make an application for housing assistance, and will be assessed under the Priority Housing Need Policy.

Current tenants applying for a priority transfer will have their application for housing assistance assessed under the Department of Communities (Housing) Transfer Policy.

3. Conditional Housing Assistance

An applicant with an adverse history with the Department of Communities (Housing) may have their rental housing application referred for a review of their history with Housing.

A review of a client's history with Housing may result in conditions being placed on approval of housing assistance and /or allocation of a tenancy.

Related policies

- Transfer Policy
- Priority Housing Need Policy
- Tenancy Management Policy (Rental Policy Manual)
- Housing Appeals Mechanism Policy
- Application Management Policy

Related legislation

- Housing Act 1980
- Residential Tenancies Act 1987
- Residential Tenancies Regulations 1989

Definitions

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| Applicants | Applicants, their partner or a householder member seeking housing assistance from Department of Communities (Housing). |
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Document control

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Version history

| Version | Effective | Amended section | Description | Reference number |
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| 2 | May 2022 | 3 | Removal of incorrect information, indicating the conditions placed on approval are appealable | A48179684 |
| 1 | January 2022 | | New policy separated from Rental Policy Manual. Refined policy statements and removed procedural guidelines as per Rental Policy Manual. | |