



Special Priority (SPP) Application Package Information Sheet

Durham Access to Social Housing (DASH) runs the wait list for rent-geared-to-income (RGI) and modified housing. Most applicants are placed on the DASH wait list according to the date they applied. Applicants with Special Priority status are placed higher on the DASH wait list.

What is Special Priority (SPP) status?

Special Priority status aims to help you escape from human trafficking or separate permanently from someone who is abusing you. It is often referred to as SPP.

Who is eligible for SPP status?

You may be granted SPP if:

- You are a victim of human trafficking.
- You are a sponsored immigrant, and your sponsor is abusing you or your children.
- You are living with someone who is abusing you or your children, or you stopped living with them in the last three months. In limited circumstances, we may consider your application after 3 months.

How long will I wait for RGI housing?

RGI housing is not emergency housing. There are long waits for RGI even if you have SPP status. If you are eligible for SPP, you will be ahead of non-priority applicants on the wait list, but you will still be behind SPP applicants who applied before you.

While you are on the DASH waiting list, you will still need to look for affordable housing in the private market – even if you have SPP status.

How do I apply for SPP status?

You must have someone verify your claim of human trafficking or abuse. Normally, this person is a professional working with you because of the human trafficking or abuse.

You and the person verifying the abuse must complete the attached Special Priority Application package. Please make sure to include the following:

- Part A: Declaration of Human Trafficking or Abuse
- Part B: Proof of Co-Residency (not required for human trafficking)
- Part C: Verification Record
- Letter of Support as set out in Part C



Part A: Declaration of Human Trafficking or Abuse

This Declaration is completed by the applicant for Special Priority (SPP) status.

If you are applying because of human trafficking, complete Section 1.
If you are applying because you have been abused, complete Section 2.

Section 1: Declaration of Human Trafficking

I am being or have been trafficked by (name): _____

- I am currently being trafficked.
- I stopped being trafficked on (approximate date): _____

I declare that I intend to live permanently apart from my trafficker(s).

Name of SPP applicant: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Go to Part C: Verification Record

Section 2: Declaration of Abuse

I have been abused by (name): _____

- My abuser is my intimate partner or relative (relationship): _____
- My abuser is my Canada immigration sponsor.
- My abuser is somebody else (relationship): _____

I declare that I intend to live permanently apart from this person and that:

- I am currently living with this person
- I have not lived with this person since (date): _____
- I have never lived with this person

Name of SPP applicant: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Go to Part B: Proof of Co-Residency.



Part B: Proof of Co-Residency

(Not required for human trafficking)

You must give us proof that you are living with the person who abused you or that you have lived with them in the last three months. This is called Proof of Co-residency.

Address of Co-residency: _____

If you are receiving social assistance:

- I have attached Proof of Co-residency from my Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) caseworker.

If you are receiving rent-gearred-to-income (RGI) or living in social housing:

- I have attached Proof of Co-residency from my social housing provider.

If you are NOT receiving social assistance or living in RGI or social housing:

- I have attached Proof of Co-residency showing that the person who abused me and I lived together within the last 3 months.

You must give us Proof of Co-residency showing that you and the person who abused you lived together within the last 3 months.

- Documents must be dated within the last 3 months.
- Examples of documents we accept include currently-dated leases, rent receipts, utility bills, a letter from your landlord, government documents, home or tenant insurance documents, paystubs or employer statements.
- We do not accept phone bills, internet bills, letters from friends.
- If both your name and your abuser's name do not appear on a document together, you may give us more than one document to show you living at the same address at the same time.

If you are applying more than 3 months after separation:

- I have attached Proof of Co-residency showing that the person who abused me and I lived together more than 3 months ago. See above for examples of suitable documents.

You must tell us why you have not applied for Special Priority status until now:

Go to Part C: Verification Record



Part C: Verification Record

This Verification Record must be completed by someone who can confirm Part A: Declaration of Human Trafficking or Abuse.

Note to Person completing Verification Record:

- You are being asked to complete this Verification Record to confirm that the applicant in Part A has been a victim of: 1) human trafficking; or 2) abuse by an intimate partner, immigration sponsor, relative, or a person who is in an emotionally, physically, or financially dependent relationship with the applicant.
- You are being asked only to verify the instances of abuse and are not making a recommendation for the applicant's housing placement.
- You must attach a letter of support outlining the instances of human trafficking or abuse, including timelines. This letter is mandatory.

Name of person verifying trafficking or abuse: _____

Position/title: _____

Professional designations: _____

Agency/organization: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

I declare that I have reviewed the information in Part A of this application, and (please check all that apply):

- My professional assessment is the applicant is a victim of human trafficking.
- My professional assessment is that the applicant has experienced one or more incidents of physical or sexual violence by the person named in Part A.
- My professional assessment is that the applicant has experienced one or more incidents of abusive, controlling behaviour by the person named in Part A.
- My professional assessment is that the person in Part A has intentionally destroyed or injured the applicant's property.
- My professional assessment is that the words, actions or gestures of the person in Part A have threatened the applicant or made them fear for their safety.

Relationship to applicant in Part A:

- I am working with the applicant around the issue of human trafficking or abuse in my professional capacity as a:
 - Registered social worker
 - Registered social service worker
 - Police officer
 - Registered mental health therapist or psychotherapist
 - Registered nurse or registered practical nurse
 - Registered early childhood educator
 - Housing provider
 - Lawyer
 - Doctor
 - Minister of religion
 - Teacher
 - Guidance counsellor
 - Midwife
 - Indigenous leader
- I am not a member of one of the above professions, but I am working with the applicant in my professional role around the issue of human trafficking or abuse. **I understand that I must have this Verification Record signed by a person who has the authority to bind my agency or organization.**
- I do not work with the applicant in a professional role, but I have direct knowledge that the applicant has been subject to human trafficking or abuse. **I understand that I must have this Verification Record and my letter of support notarized as to the truth of the records by a commissioner for taking affidavits.**

Reminder to person completing Verification Record:

- You must attach a letter of support outlining the instances of human trafficking or abuse, including timelines. This letter is mandatory.
- If you are not working with the applicant in your professional role, you must have this Verification Record and your letter of support notarized as to the truth of the records by a commissioner for taking affidavits.

Name of person completing Verification Record: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Name of person who can bind agency: _____

Title: _____ **Agency:** _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

This information is collected under the legal authority of the *Housing Services Act, 2011* for the purpose of administering social housing programs prescribed in this Act and its associated Regulations. Questions about this collection should be forwarded to the Director of Housing Services, Region of Durham at 605 Rossland Rd E, Whitby ON L1N 6A3 or 905-668-7711.