



Social Services Department - Housing Division
82 Erie Street Stratford, Ontario N5A 2M4
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Child Custody – Verification

Under the *Housing Services Act*, there are occupancy standards that determine the number of bedrooms, or unit size, that may be applied for. Households are entitled to a maximum number of bedrooms in a social housing unit according to the size of the household.

A couple (married or common law) is entitled to one bedroom.

Each additional bedroom must be occupied by a member of the household.

Children are defined as a person less than 18 years of age and the biological child or legal ward of the tenant. Each child is eligible for their own bedroom.

Additional bedrooms may be allowed due to:

- A member of the household is pregnant
- A member of the household has joint custody of a child with regular overnight visits
- A member of the households has visitation rights for a child with regular overnight visits

Verification documentation is required for every child indicated on the application. Please note documents must be recent (dated within the last 12 months) and also list the dependent(s) names.

Here are some suggestions to help you meet this requirement:

- Canada Child Benefit (CCB) statement, for most recent tax year
- Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) statement, for most recent tax year
- Income Tax paperwork for most recent tax year
- If in receipt of Social Assistance (OW/ODSP) a recent drug card or letter from your worker confirming the named children included under your benefits
- Recent Healthy Smiles document
- Recent/current Divorce and/or Separation Agreement
- Recent/current Custody and/or Visitation Agreement
- Recent/current Court Order document
- Recent/current personally developed Agreement – *must be signed by both parties and witnessed by either a Notary Public or a Commissioner of Oaths.*