

# CITY OF STRATFORD - SOCIAL HOUSING DIRECTIVES



SUBJECT: **Maximum Absence from Unit**

Directive Number: **2013-06**  
Date: **March 2013**

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Legislation Applicable (✓) to the following social housing programs:

- Federal Non-Profit Program
- ✓ Private Non-Profit Program
- ✓ Co-operative Non-Profit Program
- ✓ Municipal Non-Profit Program
- ✓ Public Housing Corporation

**Background** A Service Manager may establish a local rule regarding the length of time all members of a Rent-Geared-to-Income household can be absent from the unit.

If a service manager decides to establish a maximum absence period rule, O. Reg. 367/11 specifies the following limitations:

- The local eligibility rule may provide for a maximum number of consecutive days, for a maximum number of days in a year or for both.
- The maximum number of consecutive days specified in the local eligibility rule must be at least 60 consecutive days.
- The maximum number of days in a year specified in the local eligibility rule must be at least 90 days.
- The local eligibility rule must provide that a member of the household who is absent for medical reasons is deemed to not be absent.

**Social  
Housing  
Policy  
City of  
Stratford**

A household receiving rent-geared-to-income assistance ceases to be eligible for such assistance if **ALL** of the members of the household have been absent from the unit for at least **sixty (60) consecutive days** and/or **ninety (90) total days in a year**.

If a household has only one member and that member is absent from the unit for a period of time because of medical reasons, the member shall be deemed not to be absent from the unit during that period.

If a household has two or more members, one member is absent from the unit for a period of time because of medical reasons, and the others are absent from the unit for that period of time because they need to be accommodated elsewhere as a result of the absence of the first member, all the members of the household shall be deemed not to be absent from the unit during that period.

This does not apply with respect to an absence where the service manager has determined that extenuating circumstances exist considering the household's situation and/or risk related to a household member's personal safety or health.

**Housing  
Services  
Act  
367/11 s.37**

*A Service Manager may make a local eligibility rule providing for a household to cease to be eligible for Rent-Geared-to-Income assistance if all the members of the household are absent from the unit for which the household receives Rent-Geared-to-Income assistance for more than the maximum number of days specified in the local eligibility rule.*

Council: March 2013  
Committee: February 2013