

Options for male victims escaping domestic abuse with additional support needs: disability and long-term health needs

If you are escaping domestic abuse and have additional support needs due to disability or long-term health needs, you will be recognised on both counts as in “priority need” for accommodation if you make a homeless application.

The local authority you apply to will (if you are eligible to apply) have a duty to provide you with interim (emergency) accommodation whilst they are processing your application.

You will need to give the local authority all the relevant medical documentation and information regarding your disability and long-term health needs so that they can find accommodation that is suitable for your needs. This is more likely to be in a self-contained flat than in a refuge or hostel (most of which are not accessible for disabled people).

This may, depending on availability, be one managed by a domestic abuse charity. This means that although you may not be staying in a refuge, you would still receive support from specialist domestic abuse workers.

If you make a successful homeless application the Local Authority may provide you with the following types of (longer term) specialist housing:

- wheelchair accessible housing
- mobility housing
- sheltered housing

Wheelchair accessible housing is designed to give people using wheelchairs access to all principal rooms including the bathroom and to allow full use of all the facilities.

Mobility housing is designed for disabled people who are not confined to a wheelchair, but whose mobility is limited. The entrance should be level or ramped and the corridors and doors should be wide enough for a wheelchair. The bathroom and at least one of the bedrooms should be on the same level as the entrance.

Sheltered housing consists of flats with a warden and is mainly intended for older people (very few sheltered housing schemes exist for younger disabled people).

These types of housing are usually allocated via the local authority allocations scheme. You should check your local authority's website for their policy, application forms, and specific priority bands.

The waiting times to gain long term social housing can be very slow and vary from area to area. If you are leaving one area to escape domestic abuse, you should consider seeking information about the waiting times for the type of accommodation you need in the areas you are considering applying to. The waiting times tend to be much longer in cities like London.

When you are homeless due to domestic abuse and need to move for health or disability reasons, you must be given 'reasonable preference' for council housing. You should be given additional points (when you bid for housing from the Housing Register) for all the reasons shown below:

- You are homeless, at risk of violence or likely to lose your home in the next 8 weeks
- Need to move for health, disability or welfare reasons
- You need sheltered housing for older people
- You need supported housing because of a learning disability
- You need things like a wet room, low sockets, lifts or handrails because of a disability
- You have problems walking or climbing stairs
- You have served in the regular armed forces
- You are in the regular or reserve forces and you're seriously injured, ill or disabled because of your service
- You have a sudden disability or life-threatening illness
- You have suffered violence or threats, including domestic abuse, witness intimidation or serious antisocial behaviour

Specialist Support Services for disabled people and their families

You may also wish to contact the [Disability Law Service](#) for support in relation to your housing on Telephone 020 7791 9808 Mondays and Wednesdays from 2pm to 5pm.

[Scope's](#) helpline also provides free, independent and impartial advice and support to disabled people and their families. Telephone 0808 800 3333 Or textphone: dial 18001 then 0808 800 3333. Open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm.

Shelter Housing and Homelessness Advice pages

Use our online advice pages linked below if you want to find out your housing rights:

- [Housing advice from Shelter – Shelter England](#)
- [Get help from Shelter – Shelter England](#)

Respect
Men's advice line

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