



COMMUNITY HOUSING LTD  
GROUP OF COMPANIES

## FACT SHEET 10

### PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

#### Rights

People affected by the Criminal Justice System include prisoners, forensic detainees, ex-prisoners and people on remand have the same rights to Social Housing as other applicants and tenants.

#### Policy

People who are imprisoned for three months or less and have no-one eligible to succeed to their tenancy for the period they are in prison, may retain their tenancy.

During this period they can be granted CHL's minimum rent (which is \$10.00 a week). At the end of the three months the tenancy should be terminated, if not, market rent will be charged (any termination should be negotiated with the social worker at the prison).

If the reason for imprisonment is related to a breach of the Tenancy Agreement then CHL will commence action to terminate the tenancy. If the tenant has not been released from prison at the end of the three months the tenancy will either be transferred to another household member living in the property or the tenancy terminated (any termination should be negotiated with the social worker at the prison).

There is no requirement for prisoners to self identify when making an application. They may, however, choose to do so by presenting their prison release and Medicare papers.

Ex-prisoners may choose to identify themselves in order to ensure continuity of accrued waiting time while in prison, obtain reinstatement to the list and backdating of entitlement upon release or, retain their tenancy while in prison for three months or less.

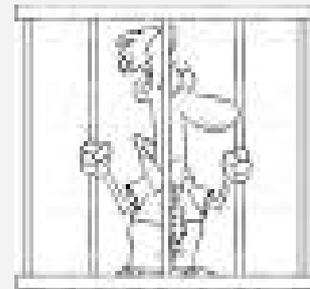
In the situation an applicant is identified as an ex-prisoner a letter from Corrective Services is required indicating the period of time they spent in prison.

An applicant may also apply for Social Housing while in prison. If the application is approved, they can be admitted to the waiting list.

People who voluntarily gave up their tenancy to go to prison may be given immediate housing upon their release if it was negotiated with them prior to or at the time of their imprisonment.

#### Appealing decisions

If you feel your application has not been assessed fairly you can request an appeal form and lodge it for independent review.



#### **Any Questions**

If you have any questions about the information in this Fact Sheet or on any other housing related matter, please contact your nearest Community Housing Limited Office or visit our website

[www.chl.org.au](http://www.chl.org.au)