

# POLICY HD10

## States of Jersey Housing Department Policy for dealing with marriage breakdowns

### 1. Current tenants

In the case of marriage breakdowns for existing States tenants, the Department would aim to allow the parent with the majority care of the child/children to remain in the family home. The parent remaining in the home must possess or obtain local housing qualifications and, if not already named as the tenant for the property, will be asked to sign a new tenancy agreement. A new rent account will be issued to the new tenant, with the previous tenant remaining responsible for any outstanding rent or charges for the period of their tenancy.

We are not able to offer more than one home to the child/children, although each case will be looked at on its own merits.

Where an unqualified parent is left in the property with the child/children, a period of **two weeks** will be given for the parent to apply to the Population Office for housing qualifications in their own name in order to allow them to take over the tenancy and remain in their home. During this 2 week period **no rent** will be accepted by the Department from the unqualified person. The rent account will continue to be the responsibility of the qualified tenant, regardless of whether or not that person is living in the property.

If housing qualifications are granted, the parent will be asked to sign a new tenancy agreement and a new rent account will be issued.

If the unqualified person, for whatever reason, is not granted housing qualifications, the Department will have no alternative but to seek vacant possession of the property. A seven day notice will be issued to both parties advising that the locks will be changed at the end of the seven day period and any belongings left in the property at that time will be disposed of at the discretion of the Housing Department – the cost of which will be sent on to the named tenant.

### 2. New applicants

Where a marriage breakdown occurs to a couple on our waiting list, or a separated couple enquire about States rental accommodation, we can only consider an application from the parent with the majority care of the child/children. In cases of shared care, the parents must decide which of them will apply to be housed by the Department.

We are not able to offer more than one home to the children, although each case will be looked at on its own merits.

## 1. Effective date

The policy shall become active on the date on which the respective Ministerial Decision was signed by the Minister.

Update Policy Register with Review Date

[Policy Register.xls](#)

Policy Drafted	10 <sup>th</sup> April 2007	D Counce Director of Tenant Services
<b>Policy Reviews</b>		
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Reviewed By</b>
Following receipt of legal advice	12 November 2007	D Counce
Policy remains accurate, only job titles have been updated	28 January 2010	D Counce