



How to Secure Housing in Urgent Circumstances without Identification (ID)

Note: This tip sheet helps you obtain interim identification (ID) for urgent housing needs. For further information about ID, see tip sheet, Securing Identification: Backgrounder.

I'm trying to rent but don't have official ID - what do I do?

Ideally, you should try to have at least one piece of official ID and something that shows your full name with a recent photo to prove that you are the person you claim to be. Most landlords won't enter into a lease or rental agreement with you unless you can present this information, because a lease or rental agreement is legally binding.

If you don't have this ID to present to the landlord, some may accept non-standard forms of ID and/or photocopies until you have official ID. In this scenario, you can ask the landlord if they are willing to accept the following in order to expedite the process:

- Photocopies or facsimiles (faxes) of official ID, if originals are not available (e.g., if you receive OW or ODSP, your worker likely has a photocopy of your original ID on file and may provide you with a copy; or
- In some cases a transit pass or student ID card will be acceptable along with some other confirmation of identity from a government source (i.e., birth certificate, notice of annual tax assessment, social assistance or pension statement (OW, ODSP, CPP-OAS).

How do I replace lost or stolen ID?

Online resources

Go to www.servicecanada.gc.ca and search "Lost Wallet" for more information on how to get or replace various types of ID. For further information about accessing or replacing various forms of identification under non-urgent circumstances, see companion tip sheet Securing Identification: Backgrounder.





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In-person help

- Local ID clinics offer assistance with getting a Canadian Birth Certificate, Ontario Health Card, Verification of Status, and other ID depending on your circumstances.
- Staff can help you by:
 - Completing the application form, filing for applications on your behalf, and confirming the application was submitted;
 - Receiving and storing your ID in a safe and secure location;
 - Covering the cost of getting your ID (dependent on available funding); and
 - Connecting you to other services, such as housing, food resources, and financial support as needed.

ID clinic and drop-in locations serving Kitchener residents

(Please note there are criteria for program access.)

St. John's Kitchen (Working Centre)

97 Victoria St North, Kitchener ON

Tuesdays 10:00am - 1:00pm

Drop-in, no appointment needed

Kitchener Downtown Community Health Centre (KDCHC)

44 Francis Street South, Kitchener ON

519-745-4404 ext. 207

By appointment

If you live at YWCA Men's Hostel or oneROOF, see staff there for assistance in connecting with KDCHC staff who can assist.

