



St. Albert HomeShare HomeShare Guide

How HomeShare works

Each HomeShare arrangement is different, but some factors are common to all matches:

- A Host (Landlord) provides a private bedroom to the Guest (Tenant) in exchange for rent, help with tasks, or a combination of the two.
- Common spaces in the home – such as the kitchen and living room – are shared.
- The Host or Guest provides no personal care. HomeShare matches are not meant to take the place of home care.

Exchange of Service

Hosts share their homes for many reasons. Some want help around the house, and Guests can assist with household tasks such as cooking meals, getting groceries, or cleaning, among other things. They can provide reminders to take medications but cannot distribute medications or fill pill boxes. Utilities may be included in the rent, or Guests may agree to pay the difference if electricity or other costs rise after they move in.

The amount of service hours provided, as well as the cost of rent and utilities, is determined by the Host and Guest. The important thing is that the arrangement is beneficial to both parties.

Our Process

Interview

After reviewing your application and documents, you may be contacted by St. Albert HomeShare to schedule an interview. This interview lets us get to know you better and help determine what you want from a HomeShare arrangement.

Following your Interview

It is up to St. Albert HomeShare to decide who to meet and who to match. Based on what you have told us, we will select applicants who may be a good match for you. Ultimately, it is up to you to decide whether or not you want to live with someone.

At any point, if you decide you don't want to consider HomeSharing anymore, let St. Albert HomeShare know that we no longer need to be looking for a match.



Introduction

We will let each of you know if we have someone who might be a good fit. If you are both interested in meeting, a social worker will arrange an introduction at the St. Albert Community Village.

No decisions are made at the first meeting. We suggest you consider it for a few days or longer if necessary. You are not obligated to live with someone you meet – you decide who the right fit is for you. Sometimes, it will take meeting a few people to find the right match.

Trial Match

The trial match provides an opportunity to try living together. The Guest typically stays for one to two weeks with the understanding that neither party has yet made a final decision. The trial period lets you get to know each other better and can help you decide if you are compatible.

Rent or utilities are typically not paid during the trial period. Homesharers should not add new services until after the trial period has ended.

If the Guest has a pet, they should bring it during the trial period so you can experience life with the new animal.

During the trial period, the Guest maintains their other housing situation, as either party can change their mind during this time. If you do not continue your match, the Guest returns to their previous living situation, and St. Albert HomeShare continues to help you find another person who is the right fit.

HomeShare Agreement

If you decide to continue your HomeShare following the trial period, it's time to create a HomeShare agreement. St. Albert HomeShare can provide you with a HomeShare agreement that will help you outline the specifics of your match, or if both parties agree, you may make other arrangements for a HomeShare agreement.

You are encouraged to share emergency contacts and health information with one another. The HomeShare agreement is meant to clarify expectations and aid in a more successful match.

Once the matching process is complete, the relationship becomes a landlord/tenant arrangement. We are here to support you with any concerns that may arise.

Insurance

The Host is encouraged to discuss their homeowner's policy with their insurance agent, and the Guest is recommended to purchase tenant insurance while HomeSharing.



Documents

The applicant is responsible for paying any costs incurred in obtaining documents as part of the application process.

Housing and Health Standards

We encourage all applicants to review the Alberta Health Minimum Housing and Health Standards (2013) available online. We can provide a physical copy upon request.

Rental Income

Any money received as rent by the Host is taxable and should be reported as rental income when filing your income tax return.

Completed application forms and supporting documents can be sent to the following address or dropped off at:

St. Albert Food Bank and Community Village
30 – 50 Bellerose Drive
St. Albert, AB T8N 3L5

ATTENTION: HomeShare Co-ordinator
780-459-0599 ext. 6