

FINDING A PLACE TO LIVE

Tips on looking for housing:

1. Check the classified section of local newspapers where houses and/or apartments for rent are listed.
2. Check with friends, neighbors, and your case manager. Ask owners that have no vacancies if they know of other owners with vacant units.
3. Use Georgia Housing Search for free listings of rental units: www.georgiahousingsearch.org
4. Check with real estate offices or rental agencies. Some areas have apartment guides at the grocery stores. Look in the Yellow Pages of telephone directories.
5. Always ask to see the unit you want to rent. When you find a unit, ask the owner some important questions. Some suggestions are provided below, but you may have other questions to add to the list:
 - Will you rent to me under the Section 8 Program? (If you have a reputation as a good tenant, tell them about it and try to convince them to rent to you.)
 - Who is the owner or agent, and what is their name, telephone number and address?
 - What is the address of the unit you want to rent?
 - How much is the rent?
 - What utilities are included in the rent?
 - Who furnishes the stove and refrigerator?
 - How much is the security deposit?
 - How many bedrooms?
 - Always read your lease before you sign it and be sure you get a copy to keep.

When you and the owner agree you will rent the unit, do the following:

1. Ask the owner to complete the Request for Unit Approval form in your briefing packet.
2. Return the completed Request for Unit Approval form to DCA Housing Specialist to request an inspection. You must find a unit before the expiration date on your coupon.

Before you request an inspection, make sure:

1. The unit will pass an inspection (inspect it yourself).
2. The unit is ready for you to move into it. If the unit is not ready, **do not** turn in a Request for Unit Approval.
3. You want to live in the unit for at least one year.
4. The other leasing documents will be completed at the inspection, if the unit passes.

WARNING: Section 1001 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code makes it a criminal offense to make willful, false statements of misrepresentation to any department or agency of the United States or to any matter within its jurisdiction.