

Applicant's/Tenant's Consent to the Release of Information

Verification by Owners of Information
Supplied by Individuals Who Apply for Housing Assistance

U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development
Office of Housing
Federal Housing Commissioner

Instructions to Owners

1. Give the documents listed below to the applicants/tenants to sign. Staple or clip them together in one package in the order listed.
 - a. The HUD-9887/A Fact Sheet.
 - b. Form HUD-9887.
 - c. Form HUD-9887-A.
 - d. Relevant verifications (HUD Handbook 4350.3 Rev. 1).
2. Verbally inform applicants and tenants that
 - a. They may take these forms home with them to read or to discuss with a third party of their choice and to return to sign them on a date they have worked out with you, and
 - b. If they have a disability that prevents them from reading and/or signing any consent, that you, the Owner, are required to provide reasonable accommodations.
3. Owners are required to give each household a copy of the HUD-9887/A Fact Sheet, form HUD-9887, and form HUD-9887-A after obtaining the required applicants/tenants signature(s). Also, owners must give the applicants/tenants a copy of the signed individual verification forms upon their request.

Instructions to Applicants and Tenants

This Form HUD-9887-A contains customer information and protections concerning the HUD-required verifications that Owners must perform.

1. Read this material which explains:
 - HUD's requirements concerning the release of information, and
 - Other customer protections.
2. Sign on the last page that:
 - you have read this form, or
 - the Owner or a third party of your choice has explained it to you, and
 - you consent to the release of information for the purposes and uses described.

Authority for Requiring Applicant's/Tenant's Consent to the Release of Information

Section 904 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1988, as amended by section 903 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992. This law is found at 42 U.S.C. 3544.

In part, this law requires you to sign a consent form authorizing the Owner to request current or previous employers to verify salary and wage information pertinent to your eligibility or level of benefits.

In addition, HUD regulations (24 CFR 5.659, Family Information and Verification) require as a condition of receiving housing assistance that you must sign a HUD-approved release and consent authorizing any depository or private source of income to furnish such information that is necessary in determining your eligibility or level of benefits. This includes information that you have provided which will affect the amount of rent you pay. The information includes income and assets, such as salary, welfare benefits, and interest earned on savings accounts. They also include certain adjustments to your income, such as the allowances for dependents and for households whose heads or spouses are elderly handicapped, or disabled; and allowances for child care expenses, medical expenses, and handicap assistance expenses.

Purpose of Requiring Consent to the Release of Information

In signing this consent form, you are authorizing the Owner of the housing project to which you are applying for assistance to request information from a third party about you. HUD requires the housing owner to verify all of the information you provide that affects your eligibility and level of benefits to ensure that you are eligible for assisted housing benefits and that these benefits are set at the correct levels. Upon the request of the HUD office or the PHA (as Contract Administrator), the housing Owner may provide HUD or the PHA with the information you have submitted and the information the Owner receives under this consent.

Uses of Information to be Obtained

The individual listed on the verification form may request and receive the information requested by the verification, subject to the limitations of this form. HUD is required to protect the income information it obtains in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a. The Owner and the PHA are also required to protect the income information they obtain in accordance with any applicable state privacy law. Should the Owner receive information from a third party that is inconsistent with the information you have provided, the Owner is required to notify you in writing identifying the information believed to be incorrect. If this should occur, you will have the opportunity to meet with the Owner to discuss any discrepancies.

Who Must Sign the Consent Form

Each member of your household who is at least 18 years of age, and each family head, spouse or co-head, regardless of age must sign the relevant consent forms at the initial certification, at each recertification and at each interim certification, if applicable. In addition, when new adult members join the household and when members of the household become 18 years of age they must also sign the relevant consent forms.

Persons who apply for or receive assistance under the following programs must sign the relevant consent forms:

Rental Assistance Program (RAP)
Rent Supplement
Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Programs (administered by the Office of Housing)
Section 202
Sections 202 and 811 PRAC
Section 202/162 PAC
Section 221(d)(3) Below Market Interest Rate
Section 236
HOPE 2 Home Ownership of Multifamily Units

Failure to Sign the Consent Form

Failure to sign any required consent form may result in the denial of assistance or termination of assisted housing benefits. If an applicant is denied assistance for this reason, the O/A must follow the notification procedures in Handbook 4350.3 Rev. 1. If a tenant is denied assistance for this reason, the O/A must follow the procedures set out in the lease.

Conditions

No action can be taken to terminate, deny, suspend or reduce the assistance your household receives based on information obtained about you under this consent until the O/A has independently 1) verified the information you have provided with respect to your eligibility and level of benefits and 2) with respect to income (including both earned and unearned income), the O/A has verified whether you actually have (or had) access to such income for your own use, and verified the period or periods when, or with respect to which you actually received such income, wages, or benefits.

A photocopy of the signed consent may be used to request the information authorized by your signature on the individual consent forms. This would occur if the O/A does not have another individual verification consent with an original signature and the O/A is required to send out another request for verification (for example, the third party fails to respond). If this happens, the O/A may attach a photocopy of this consent to a photocopy of the individual verification form that you sign. To avoid the use of photocopies, the O/A and the individual may agree to sign more than one consent for each type of verification that is needed. The O/A shall inform you, or a third party which you designate, of the findings made on the basis of information verified under this consent and shall give you an opportunity to contest such findings in accordance with Handbook 4350.3 Rev. 1.

The O/A must provide you with information obtained under this consent in accordance with State privacy laws.

If a member of the household who is required to sign the consent forms is unable to sign the required forms on time, due to extenuating circum-

stances, the O/A may document the file as to the reason for the delay and the specific plans to obtain the proper signature as soon as possible.

Individual consents to the release of information expire 15 months after they are signed. The O/A may use these individual consent forms during the 120 days preceding the certification period. The O/A may also use these forms during the certification period, but only in cases where the O/A receives information indicating that the information you have provided may be incorrect. Other uses are prohibited.

The O/A may not make inquiries into information that is older than 12 months unless he/she has received inconsistent information and has reason to believe that the information that you have supplied is incorrect. If this occurs, the O/A may obtain information within the last 5 years when you have received assistance.

I have read and understand this information on the purposes and uses of information that is verified and consent to the release of information for these purposes and uses.

Name of Applicant or Tenant (Print)

Signature of Applicant or Tenant & Date

I have read and understand the purpose of this consent and its uses and I understand that misuse of this consent can lead to personal penalties to me.

Name of Project Owner or his/her representative

Title

Signature & Date
cc:Applicant/Tenant
Owner file

Penalties for Misusing this Consent:

HUD, the O/A, and any PHA (or any employee of HUD, the O/A, or the PHA) may be subject to penalties for unauthorized disclosures or improper uses of information collected based on the consent form.

Use of the information collected based on the form HUD 9887-A is restricted to the purposes cited on the form HUD 9887-A. Any person who knowingly or willfully requests, obtains or discloses any information under false pretenses concerning an applicant or tenant may be subject to a misdemeanor and fined not more than \$5,000.

Any applicant or tenant affected by negligent disclosure of information may bring civil action for damages, and seek other relief, as may be appropriate, against the officer or employee of HUD, the O/A or the PHA responsible for the unauthorized disclosure or improper use.