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Services



NHAS assist advice agency in homeless application u-turn and secure emergency accommodation for client

This was our most-read case study of 2021. Back in September, we assisted an advice agency worker with their client's homeless application. The local authority had discharged their duties to the client as they decided he wasn't in priority need.

[Read more](#)



Specialist advice on housing & welfare benefit queries

Need help with housing or welfare benefits enquiries?

Call us on 0300 330 0517 or [speak to an adviser via webchat](#).



Specialist Debt Advice Service

Need support with a difficult debt case?

Call the Specialist Debt Advice Service on 03300 580 404 or [submit an enquiry online](#).

Training update

Ninety-minute funded webinars

Although some January sessions are fully booked, we have good availability for most topics in February and March, including:

Eligibility for Housing Assistance, Temporary Accommodation, Statutory Overcrowding, Suitability of Accommodation, Housing Duties to Young People, Assured Shorthold Tenancies – S21 Notices, Understanding the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Take a look at the [training schedule](#) for topics, dates and times.

[View training schedule](#)



Group webinars available before April

We have some funding remaining to deliver free webinars to groups of 15-25 staff before April, including basic tailoring where appropriate. Please contact nhastraining@shelter.org.uk with any requests or queries.

[View group webinars](#)

Housing Matters

Monthly round-up of legislation, case law, guidance and news



Includes practice direction amendments for possession proceedings from 1 December 2021, new regulations on universal credit work allowance and taper rate, Right to Buy new designated regions. Case law on suitability of accommodation, intentional homelessness, allocations of social housing, and contractual succession to a tenancy is also covered.

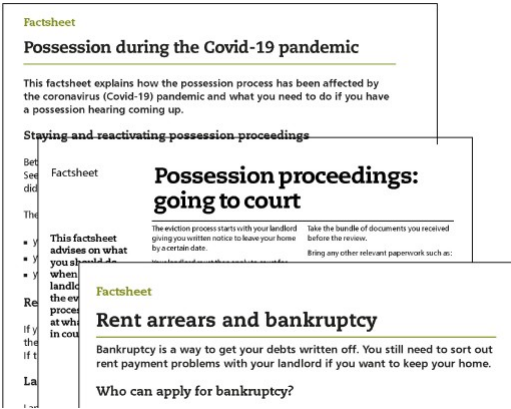
[Read more](#)

[View all Housing Matters news and articles](#)

Factsheets

New and updated factsheets listed under the eviction section:

- [Rent arrears and bankruptcy](#)
- [Possession during the Covid-19 pandemic](#)
- [Possession proceedings: going to court](#)



[View all factsheets](#)

Focus On

Emergency accommodation for rough sleepers in winter

People sleeping rough are at a significantly higher risk of harm and death when the temperature drops, and the weather worsens. When the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) is activated, local authorities must provide a bed in a shelter, food, and washing facilities for rough sleepers in their areas.

The trigger for activation is usually a weather forecast of three or more consecutive nights with a minimum temperature of zero degrees or lower. However, authorities are encouraged to be flexible in their response, as severe weather may also include near-freezing temperatures, snow, rain, and other weather warnings.

In London, the pan-London SWEP agreed by all 33 local authorities in the capital has been activated on 26 November 2021 for the first time this winter. It recommends that only single-occupancy accommodation such as hotel rooms should be used for SWEP provision this year. Shared sleeping spaces should be considered only as a last resort when all options to provide self-contained rooms have been exhausted.

Advisers concerned about someone sleeping rough during severe weather should check what provisions and options are available locally.

Charlie Howard looks at emergency accommodation and options available to people sleeping rough this winter.

[Read more](#)

Shelter Legal

Recent updates to Shelter Legal include:

- [Court of Appeal clarifies what enquiries local authorities must make when assessing intentionality of homeless applicants](#)
- [Landlords' duty to serve a notice outlining what they know about the effect of the pandemic on the tenant is extended to 30 June 2022](#)
- [Supreme Court rules that EEA nationals with pre-settled status cannot rely on Article 18 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to challenge restricted access to public funds](#)
- [Guidance on how to calculate the late rent default fee under the Tenant Fees Act 2019](#)
- [A person who lacked mental capacity at one point in the past may not lack it in current circumstances](#)
- [Information about how local authorities should approach applications for borough-wide injunctions to prevent setting up encampments by members of the Gypsy and Traveller communities](#)
- [The Court of Appeal rules that local authorities are required to have evidence that a private rented sector offer complies with the suitability requirements](#)
- [Local authorities' duties to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children pending an age assessment](#)
- [A local authority was within its rights to exclude an applicant who would otherwise qualify for reasonable preference on the housing register based on a five years' residency requirement](#)

For all the latest updates see [what's new on Shelter Legal](#)

Who we are?

We provide free expert advice, training and support to professionals working in local authorities, voluntary advice agencies and public authorities in England.

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