

## APPLICATION FORM TO BECOME A HOME SHARING FAMILY

NOTE: If there are two adults living in the family home, both must attend the Home Sharing Training course and participate fully in the assessment process

### PARTICULARS OF APPLICANT(S)

Applicant 1

Applicant 2

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Forename: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

First language \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship status between both applicants (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

***Please attach a regular size photo of you and your family here if mailing application.***

***Applications being submitted via email, you can attach a photo of you and your family in the email along with this application form.***

## HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

Please include all members of the household. All adults will be Garda Vetted and all the household will be vetted by Tusla Child and Family Agency

Name	Date of Birth	Occupation/School	Relationship to applicant

## ACCOMMODATION

Are you a home owner or renting your home? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a spare bedroom available: YES  NO  If yes, is the room upstairs or downstairs? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you use your home to support students at any time throughout the year? YES  NO

If separated, does your ex-partner still reside in the family home? YES  NO  N/A

Please describe your home, e.g. number of bedrooms, bathroom, garden access, local amenities etc: \_\_\_\_\_


## AVAILABILITY

Please outline how many nights per month you and your family would like to provide Home Sharing in your home? e.g., 1/ 2 nights per month, 1 night per week, 1 weekend per month, 2 weekends per month or fulltime.


## MOTIVATION TO BECOME A HOME SHARING FAMILY

1. Do you provide care to any family members who have additional needs? YES  NO

2. If yes, please provide details:

3. Has the possibility of becoming a Home Sharing Family been discussed with the entire household? Yes  No

4. Why do you and your family want to become a Home Sharing Family?

5. Are you currently or have ever been a Foster Family with Tusla (formerly the HSE) or with any other agency or previously being involved in Home Sharing? Yes  No

If yes:

- If yes, which agency are/were you linked to? \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you willing for us to make contact with that agency? Yes  No

**Please note that families cannot be foster families and Home Sharing families at the same time, however families can apply if they are planning to transition to Home sharing from fostering.**

6. Do you work full-time/part-time? Please provide details of your role (both applicants if applicable):

## REFERENCES

Do you work or have you ever worked, volunteer or have ever volunteered within the disability, social care, education or care sector, or with a local club, e.g. G.A.A., Foróige, Scouts, etc.? YES  No

If yes, please provide details of your role:

If yes, please provide name and address of line manager you would have reported to for the above role:

### Applicant 1

### Applicant 2

Line Manager Name:

Organisation name:

Role:

Dates from / to:

Line Manager Contact details:

Other References – Please provide 3 referees that are not related to the applicant(s) and should know the family as a unit, such as a neighbour, friend of the family etc.

#### **REFEREE 1**

Name:

Address:

Email Address:

Telephone Number:

Occupation:

How is the referee know to the applicant(s):

#### **REFEREE 2**

Name:

Address:

Email Address:

Telephone Number:

Occupation:

How is the referee know to the applicant(s):

### REFEREE 3

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

How is the referee know to the applicant(s): \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Garda Vetting will be sought for every adult who resides at the address. The Social Work Department in Tusla are contacted in order to establish whether they have been in contact with your family and, if so, what is the context of this contact.*

### CONSENTS

I, hereby give my consent to have enquiries made by Home Share Galway (Ability West and the Brothers of Charity Services Ireland, West Region) to the referees named.

I am aware Home Sharing families provide supports in their own home to a person with an intellectual disability. Home Sharing arrangements are based on the Home Sharing family's availability around work and other commitments. A nominal allowance is provided for each session.

#### Applicant 1

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Applicant 2

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Please return completed application form to:**

Home Sharing Team  
Social Work Dept.  
Ability West  
Blackrock House  
Salthill  
Galway

Home Sharing Team  
TURAS Family & Community Services  
**or** Brothers of Charity Services Ireland – West Region  
5 Fána Buí  
Ballymoneen Road  
Knocknacarra  
Galway

Email: [homesharing@abilitywest.ie](mailto:homesharing@abilitywest.ie) (PDF attachment)

Tel: 091 540 900 (Ext 995)

[www.abilitywest.ie/home-sharing](http://www.abilitywest.ie/home-sharing)

Tel: 091 721 560

## What is Home Sharing?

Home Sharing offers short or long term family placements for people with an intellectual disability. Ability West and the Brothers of Charity Services Ireland – West Region jointly operate the service which initially started in 1985 known as Home Share Galway. Home Share Galway currently have in the region of 100 Home Sharing families providing support to almost 140 individuals. The service was initiated in response to families of children with an intellectual disability requiring the support of short term breaks, but over the years it has grown to also support adults. Breaks vary from day visits, over-nights and/or week-end placements.

Home Sharing has tremendous value at many levels. Firstly, it provides the person with a disability with an opportunity to make new friends and have new experiences. Secondly, it gives the family a well-earned break from continuous care. Thirdly, it gives an opportunity for people in the community to share their home and their time with a person with an intellectual disability. There is no magic ingredient to Home Sharing. People who provide Home Sharing come from all walks of life - married, single, cohabiting, working, unemployed, retired, etc. Formal qualifications are not necessary but it is desirable to have qualities such as common sense, warmth, patience and flexibility.

A training course is organised for potential Home Sharing families that includes information and guidelines on what is involved in supporting a vulnerable person with intellectual disability in their own home. If married or cohabiting, both persons will be considered as applicants and both will be expected to attend each training session, a family day is arranged for all members of the household to attend and to give them the opportunity to understand what is involved and what is expected of them during each Home Sharing placement.

Potential Home Sharing families undergo a Social Work assessment which is based on the fostering assessment. The purpose of a Home Sharing Social Work assessment is to ascertain the suitability of the family for Home Sharing and make recommendations to approve the potential Home Sharing family. The assessment explores the family's attitudes to childcare and/or supporting a person with intellectual/physical disability and working with their families. The assessment also establishes the skills, knowledge and experiences of the potential Home Sharing family while at the same time finding out about the family lifestyle, including background, hobbies and interests of the household members. Home Sharing Social Work assessments guide the Home Sharing team in matching the family with a prospective person with intellectual disability. The assessing Social Worker will arrange at least three assessment visits depending on the number of household members. The Social Worker will arrange to meet with each applicant separately (if applicable), also the children (if applicable) without the parent(s). Individual sessions with the children are completed to determine their understanding of their family becoming a Home Sharing family and to include them in the process.

Garda clearance is sought for each individual over 18 in the household, along with Tusla checks, medicals & three named referees for the potential main carers and additional employer reference may be sought if the applicant(s) has previously worked or is currently working with a disability service provider. The assessment and completed vetting process is presented to the Home Sharing Panel for approval.

Following approval the Home Sharing family is presented to the matching panel. The matching panel provide structure and criteria for matching a person with an intellectual disability with a suitable Home Sharing family. The person with a disability is matched to a suitable Home Sharing family according to geographical area, needs, skills and individual preferences. Introductions between Home Sharing families and the potential new guest will be organised to suit both parties. Once the placement is up and running there will be ongoing supervision and support by the Home Sharing team through informal and formal reviews.

### Revision History

REVISION NO	DATE	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE
1	15/05/2019	Complete review of the current application form by Home Share Galway team
2	08/04/2022	Adjustment to availability