

Housemate Matching – Support Circle Factors

The term housemate describes someone who shares a home with you (or the person you support) but has their own bedroom. Having a housemate or housemates can be beneficial and welcome for many people who are interested in moving to a home of their own.

A support circle is a group of people who come together to help a person with a disability to think about and take action toward their interests, goals and needs. In relation to independent living, a support circle would help with planning and implementation of a housing and support plan, as well as helping to keep the plan going once it is up and running.

Support circle factors that can impact housemate matching can include things like:

Readiness	Is everyone on the same page about when they would like a move to happen?
Support making decisions	Do housemates and members of their circles have similar ideas about how involved the support circle will be in making decisions? Do all housemates have access to a similar level of support and involvement from their respective circles?
Support required in the home	Do the housemates have similar support needs? Will support be shared? For shared support, do support circle members share similar views of when, where and what support will be used for?

Management of the home	<p>Do members of the support circles agree on whose name(s) will be on the lease, utility bills, service agreements with staff etc.?</p> <p>Is there agreement about who decides how the common areas are used, decorated and maintained?</p>
How will problems be fixed?	<p>Support circles should have an agreed upon process to help solve conflicts if they arise.</p> <p>It is helpful if support circle members agree on how much and when they will jump in to help with resolving and solving issues between housemates. It can also be helpful to consider if a third party could be brought in to support conflict resolution, and if so, what sorts of situations might warrant this kind of help.</p> <p>Is there a plan and agreement around what will happen if the housemate relationship doesn't work out?</p>
What is the term of the arrangement?	<p>Do support circle members have similar ideas about the term of the arrangement? For example, will it be a short-term arrangement to try things out, or a longer-term arrangement, or even a forever home.</p>

Module Related Tools and Resources

1. Step 1: <https://www.dsontario.ca/housing/welcome-to-the-dso-housing-toolkit/welcome-to-the-dso-housing-toolkit-step-1>
2. My housing and support plan: <https://www.dsontario.ca/housing-toolkit/my-housing-and-support-plan>
3. My relationship circle: <https://www.dsontario.ca/housing-toolkit/my-relationship-circle>
4. Housemate partnership agreement: <https://www.dsontario.ca/assets/images/banners/Housemates-Partnership-Agreement-Fillable.PDF>
5. Housemate compatibility profiles
 - In My Own Words: <https://www.dsontario.ca/assets/images/banners/Housemate-Compatibility-Profile-In-My-Own-Words.DOC>
 - My Interests, Skills and Habits Checklist: https://www.dsontario.ca/assets/images/banners/Housemate-Compatibility-Profile_My-Interests-Skills-Habits-Checklist.docx

Online Tools and Resources

- Roomies.ca - free peer to peer platform which allows you to create and view ads and communicate with others looking for a housemate: <https://www.roomies.ca/>
- Roomiematch.com – has free and paid options and provides support with finding a housemate using a Q&A survey which go through a human review: <https://www.roomiematch.com/>

DSO Tools Resources

1. Find your area DSO: <https://www.dsontario.ca/find-your-dso>
2. What is DSO housing navigation: <https://www.dsontario.ca/housing>
3. Find your local DSO Housing Navigator:
<https://www.dsontario.ca/housing/welcome-to-the-dso-housing-toolkit/dso-housing-navigators-contact-list>
4. Events Calendar: <https://www.dsontario.ca/calendar/>

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