

HELP FOR DIVORCED AND WIDOWED PARENTS

1. We recognise that divorced and widowed parents may face challenges securing alternative housing if they sell their matrimonial flat following divorce or the death of a spouse, and help them in the following ways:

For Divorced Parents

- a) In Mar 2013, the debarment period for divorced couples to each own a subsidised flat was reduced from five to three years.
- b) We waived the requirement for ex-spouse consent for divorcees with custody of all children who are young (aged below 18) to apply for a subsidised flat within the 3-year time bar. The time bar will continue to apply to the other spouse.

For Divorced and Widowed Parents

- c) Second-timer divorced and widowed parents can benefit from the Assistance Scheme for Second-Timers (Divorced/Widowed Parents), or ASSIST. 30% of the 2-room and 3-room BTO flats in non-mature estates are set aside for second-timers. Under ASSIST, 5% out of this 30% quota is set aside for divorced and widowed parents with children below the age of 16.
- d) Divorced and widowed parents who have booked a new flat and are waiting for it to be completed can rent a flat at an affordable rate under the Parenthood Provisional Housing Scheme (PPHS).

2. Since launching ASSIST in May 2013, HDB has set aside more than 740 flats for applications under ASSIST. This is more than three times the number of applications. As of Dec 2014, 130 divorcees and widows with children booked a flat under the ASSIST scheme.