

CRIMINAL, DRUG TREATMENT, AND REGISTERED SEX OFFENDER CLASSIFICATION RECORDS MANAGEMENT POLICY

1.0 PURPOSE

In the course of its regular operations, the Ferndale Housing Commission comes into possession of criminal records as well as records of drug treatment or registered sex offender status of both residents and applicants. While necessary to accomplish Housing Commission business, these records must be maintained securely and kept from improper use.

The Ferndale Housing Commission may also be called upon to perform criminal record checks regarding applicants for, or tenants of, housing that receive project-based assistance in the jurisdiction of the Housing Commission. The Commission shall maintain the records received for these residents or applicants in the manner prescribed by this policy. Such records will not be made available to the owner of the subject property, but will be used to make recommendations to the owner based on criteria supplied by the owner.

2.0 ACQUISITION

All adult applicants and residents shall complete the Ferndale Housing Commission Authorization for Release of Police Records and Authorization of Release of Medical Records when they apply for housing. Through its cooperative agreement with the State of Michigan Police Department, the Housing Commission will request a check of local records and if necessary a National Crime Information Center check for a criminal history of any applicant. This check is done for the purpose of screening applicants for housing.

All requests for criminal records or records of drug treatment or registered sex offender status will direct the records to be sent to the Executive Director of the Ferndale Housing Commission. Only the Executive Director shall have access to the records received. He or she shall discuss the records with other Ferndale Housing Commission employees only as required to make a housing decision.

3.0 MAINTENANCE

The Ferndale Housing Commission will keep all criminal records or records of drug treatment or sex offender status that are received confidential. These records will be used

only to screen applicants for housing, continued occupancy, or to pursue evictions. The records will not be disclosed to any person or other entity except for official use in the application process or in court proceedings. No copies will be made of the records except as required for official or court proceedings.

Criminal records or records of drug treatment or registered sex offender status will be kept in a file separate from other application or eviction information. These files will be maintained in a different cabinet that is locked and kept in a secure location. Only specified employees shall have access to this cabinet.

4.0 DISPOSITION

The records shall be destroyed once action is taken on the application for housing and any grievance hearing or court proceeding has been completed and the action is finalized. A notification of destruction will be maintained.