

# Recommended Intake Form with Inclusive Gender Field

Sample Intake Form: March 2021

Client Management Inta	ke Form				
User					
Date (yyyy/mm/dd)		Time			
Client No.					
Name (Goes by)		DOB (yyyy/mm/dd)		Age	
Personal Information					
*First name* (if name differs from legal name, complete below)		*Last name			
Legal first name		Legal last name			
Pronoun (select all that apply)	He / Him / His	She / Her / Hers	They / Them / Theirs		
	Xe / Xem / Xyr	Zie / Hir / Hirs	Ey / Em / Eirs		
Gender (select all that apply, up to the client to disclose)	Woman	Man	Nonbinary		
	Cisgender	Cisgender	AFAB		
	Transgender	Transgender	AMAB		
	Intersex	Intersex	Intersex		
	Gender Fluid	Two Spirit	Undisclosed / Unknown		
	Other	Other			
Prefered Shelter	Men's	Women's	Co-Ed	2SLGBTQ+	

**Note:** While it is stated that women's shelters are the safest for gender diverse people, regardless of gender, for AFAB nonbinary people and trans men this means that they are having to sacrifice their emotional safety (being exposed to a misgendering environment) for a better chance of physical safety, which is also not always guarenteed in women's shelters.













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•	Form: March 202	21				
		regarding your gender/pron		Yes	No	
If yes, describe:						
Alias:			Existing Client			
Referred by	′					
Referred by:	Agency	Courts	Family	Friends	Hospital	
	Police	Self	Shelter			
	Other					
Contact name		Contact number				
Contact email _						
Other Infor	mation		_	_		
Other infor	mation					
Language						
Deaf/Hard of hearing?		Yes	No			
If yes, do you use:		ASL	Hearing aid	Implant	Lip reading	
Aboriginal:	First Nation	Inuit	Metis	Other		
IPV/DV/SA	Yes	No	Unknown			
If Yes:	Victim/Survi	vor Perpetrator	Both	Other		
Current Sleeping						
Abandoned building Chil		Children's Aid	Hospital		Long term care facility	
Vehicle AR		ARC Respite	Bus Stop/S	helter	Bus/Airplane	
Detox Trea	ntment	Family	Friends		Housing	
Jail		Motel/Hotel	Nathan Phi	lips Square	Park	
Refused to	answer	Self-built/Encampment	Shelter		Sidewalk/Ground/Grate	











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Have you ever stayed in a shelter before?

Yes

No

Reason for homelessness:

Health/Mental Health Housing Adequacy Housing Affordability Nonresident

Relationship breakdown Substance use Abuse

Decided to vacate housing Discharged from Shelter/Institution

Evicted by family/friends Fire or other Disaster Flood Gas Leak

Refugee/Claimant Relocating Stranded visitor/tourist Transient

Unsafe Premises Evicted due to COVID19 Lost employment due to COVID19

Other

Length of homelessness:

Not homeless Less than a month 1–6 months 6 months to a year

1–5 years 5–10 years over 10 years

Reason for Service:

Discharged from Institution Discharged from another shelter Eviction due to rental arrears

Foreclosing due to mortgage payment arrears Relocating Sponsorship breakdown

Abuse Decided to vacate housing Evicted by family/friends

Evicted by landlord Fire of other disaster Flood

Gas leak Stranded visitor/tourist Transient Unsafe premises

**Presenting Experiences** 

Disability Neurodiversity (Autism/sensory processing)

Pregnant Disclosed substance use

Disclosed mental health Observed substance use

Observed mental health Poor Hygiene

Disclosed alcohol use Observed alcohol use















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For more information, visit: www.torontoshelternetwork.com

# Proposed Changes (highlighted)

- "First name" field should be the client's chosen name (rather than legal name). Legal name should not be referred to unless required for referrals, and even then in it should be in brackets, and only disclosed with expressed permission from the client
- Removal of second field requesting Date of Birth (DOB).
- Changes to name field: Specifies chosen name with option to provide legal name if it is different. This is an effort (to avoid accidental deadnaming of clients).
- Changes to gender: Default option "Undisclosed/Unknown" to avoid system assumptions around gender, and accommodate those who do not wish to disclose.
- Changes to gender: Addition of "nonbinary" field with optional checkboxes to disclose if they are "AMAB" or "AFAB" or just list their gender listed as "Nonbinary". This is a matter of safety and privacy for nonbinary individuals.
- Changes to gender: "Man" and "Woman" gender fields now include optional checkboxes to disclose "Cis" and Trans", while providing the option to just list their gender as "Man" or "Woman". This is a matter of privacy and safety for "stealth" binary trans individuals.
- Changes to gender: Option to select "Genderfluid", "Two Spirit" and/or select more than one gender to accommodate genderfluid, multi-gender, and two spirit individuals.
- Changes to gender: Option to list your own gender to accommodate those who are questioning or have genders that fall outside of the listed options.
- Addition of pronoun field: Effort to reduce instances of assumption of gender/pronouns. Allows option to select more than one pronoun to accommodate genderfluid and multi-gender individuals.
- Addition of concern field regarding gender/pronoun: Many gender diverse folks may have safety concerns about being "out" as their gender, or may wish to be addressed differently in different spaces. This field option will flag the need for a conversation around safety.
- Replace VAW (Violence against women) with IPV/DV/SA (intimate partner violence, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault) to accommodate the many other genders who experience intimate partner violence and gendered violence. This will also help capture the need for support of men (cis and trans) and masculine identified individuals who are often excluded from these accommodations

- (despite nonbinary people and transgender men being at very high risk).
- Addition of field for Deaf/Hard of Hearing. More consideration needs to be had for this demographic and this field will flag the potential need for ASL interpretation or other accommodations.
- Addition of Covid19 for reason for eviction and job loss under "reason for homelessness".
- Addition of Neurodiversity (autism/ sensory processing) under "Presenting issues". This is intended to flag the potential for accessibility needs around sensory processing.

## **Rational**

- Lack of knowledge/confidence for intake workers who might not know the difference between cisgender and transgender, or who may be resistant to not othering transgender people by adopting the term cisgender.
- Genders are currently lumped together.
  The three gender options offered by the City (Male/Female/Trans) are insufficient for the needs of gender diverse shelter using populations. For instance, nonbinary people are often erased and misgendered as their assigned gender.
  Transgender man or transgender woman being lumped together under "transgender" which structurally implies that they are less authentic in their genders than the cisgender shelter using populations.
- Current structures ignore the vast nuances of transgender people, including non-passing trans men being sent to men's shelters/ or even passing trans men being sent to shelters with open concept showers.
- Investment in improving gender diverse safety in men's shelters is severely lacking. It has been noted that they have largely been absent in this study and related activities. Given that transgender men and transmasculine people are at particular risk of "corrective" sexual assault, and suicide, this is deeply concerning.
- As a result of the current form, transgender women and trans femmes report errors with central intake that resulted in them, despite being out as transgender, to men's shelters.
- Intake form asks if abuse was a reason for being homeless but does not clarify whether the individual was the victim or perpetrator. Need for integration of accountability structures and transformative justice supports for people who have caused harm. Need to operate from a gender inclusive lens where any gender can be the victim or perpetrator, and with recognition that some people have been both.











