



# Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977

## 1977 CHAPTER 48

### *Homelessness and threatened homelessness*

#### **3 Preliminary duties of housing authorities in cases of possible homelessness, etc.**

- (1) If—
  - (a) a person applies to a housing authority for accommodation or for assistance in obtaining accommodation, and
  - (b) the authority have reason to believe that he may be homeless or threatened with homelessness,the authority shall make appropriate inquiries.
- (2) In subsection (1) above "appropriate inquiries" means—
  - (a) such inquiries as are necessary to satisfy the authority whether the person who applied to them is homeless or threatened with homelessness, and
  - (b) if the authority are satisfied that he is homeless or threatened with homelessness, any further inquiries necessary to satisfy them—
    - (i) whether he has a priority need, and
    - (ii) whether he became homeless or threatened with homelessness intentionally.
- (3) If the authority think fit, they may also make inquiries as to whether the person who applied to them has a local connection with the area of another housing authority.
- (4) If the authority have reason to believe that the person who applied to them may be homeless and have a priority need, they shall secure that accommodation is made available for his occupation pending any decision which they may make as a result of their inquiries (irrespective of any local connection he may have with the area of another housing authority).