

PROMISE HOUSE

Resident Handbook

Welcome to the Promise House. We are very glad to have you here with us. You are important to every member of our ministry staff. We will be working with you to become a strong and successful person during the coming months. Each staff member is here because they want to be; you are first and foremost in our hearts and minds.

Please remember that it is a privilege to live at the Promise House. You will be expected to conduct yourself according to the rules of the House. Your progress toward your goals is dependent upon the amount of effort you put in. Along with housing, counseling, education and life skills training, we will assist you with your spiritual development. As this is a Christian ministry, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is central to our efforts. We hope you will take advantage of opportunities to walk with the staff and others who have experienced the grace of God in their lives. We will be eager to share with you.

Here at the Promise House, we have rules to make living in a group possible. You will receive instruction on social skills, problem solving skills, and independent living skills. We will help you establish individual goals that complement your strengths and identify areas that need improvement. Please read this HANDBOOK carefully and refer to it when you have questions.

How long does the program last?

Your dedication and hard work will directly effect the amount of time it takes you to exit the program. Typically, it may take 12-18 months to complete the program. Upon completion, you will move out of the Promise House, and we will celebrate with you your great accomplishment. At this time you will have developed many life skills, have a good job and/or be pursuing education goals. We will also help you find a place to live, possibly with another successful participant. Upon program completion, all escrow funds will be distributed to you to assist in initial expenses of deposit, rent and transportation. The funds are for you to use at your discretion. After completion of the program, we will stay connected with you, assisting as needed while you experience independent living. After a period of one year of successful independent living, you will graduate from the program. A formal graduation ceremony will be held at the Freedom Center.

House Procedures & Rules

The Promise House is a family setting with rules and disciplines. Residents are expected to live by these guidelines.

SAFETY CONCERNS: Safety of our residents is of primary concern to us. If you feel unsafe at anytime, please notify a house parent immediately. You may also call 911 at anytime for emergency response. If you are aware of any safety hazards on the property, please notify a house parent immediately.

DRESS GUIDELINES: We ask residents to dress appropriately outside their rooms. We ask that residents not wear clothing, jewelry, buttons, or haircuts which: are offensive, suggestive, or indecent, are associated with gangs or cults, or encourage use of drugs, alcohol or violence. Shirts are to be worn at all times

HYGIENE: Each resident is expected to shower or bathe daily. Times should be arranged with other residents to accommodate different schedules. Hair is to be combed neatly, clothes are to be clean and neat, teeth are to be brushed daily, and hands are to be washed before every meal. Residents should also wash their hands before handling food or dishes.

DRUGS / ALCOHOL / WEAPONS: The use or dealing of illegal drugs or alcohol on the premises will not be tolerated. Weapons and physical violence also will not be allowed. Any violation of this policy will result in immediate termination from Promise House. Additionally, residents must remain free from drugs and alcohol. Random drug tests will be conducted and any use of drugs or alcohol will result in immediate intervention, which could include immediate termination from Promise House.

GUESTS: Guests are not allowed on the premises without the express permission of the House Parents. Guests are not allowed in residents bedrooms. Visiting must occur in common areas such as the living room. It is the responsibility of residents to inform visitors of house rules.

LAUNDRY: Each resident is responsible for his/her laundry. Use of washing machines, dryers and laundry products is available at no cost. The laundry room is to be kept clean and neat.

PHONE: Residents are allowed to make and receive phone calls. However, no long distance outbound calls are allowed unless the resident has a prepaid phone card. Calls will be made and received only in the space provided. No phone calls will be allowed in other rooms or behind closed doors.

KITCHEN USE: Residents are allowed free kitchen use only after asking permission from a House Parent. It is expected that if you use the kitchen you will clean up afterward. Meals will be prepared and served family style. Residents will follow a schedule to help with menu planning, meal preparation, and kitchen clean up duties.

SMOKING: Smoking is a health hazard and will not be allowed inside the home or on the property. Residents will be encouraged to quit smoking for the duration of their stay at Promise House.

MISCONDUCT: Residents are responsible for following the structure of Promise House within the terms and conditions of this and other agreements. Abusive or vulgar language will not be tolerated. Physical violence of any kind will not be tolerated. Residents must return to Promise House each night before curfew. Misconduct or objectionable conduct may result in consequences.

RELIGION: Because the Promise House is a Christian home, residents will be encouraged to attend a church of their choice regularly. Residents will participate in devotions and Bible Studies that are done in the home. Residents will be encouraged to listen to Christian music, read Christian literature, as well as reading the Bible.

HOUSE ITEMS: All furniture, household items, appliances, decorative items, linens, and kitchen items are the property of Promise House. It is expected that all residents respect the property of the home as well as the property of others. Residents will be held responsible for damages to items or property in the homes.

ROOM CHECKS: House Parents will check resident bedrooms once a day. Bedrooms should be kept clean and neat. The following can be used as a checklist to make sure your room will pass inspection.

- Drawers closed
- Beds made
- Floors clean
- Closets organized
- Clothes properly hung up or put away
- Lights and fans turned off
- Trash not overflowing

ACCESS / LOCKS: Each resident will be given a key code for his/her bedroom along with their roommate. These codes must be kept confidential at all times. The House Parents will have access to bedrooms at any time.

CHORES: Each resident will be expected to participate in daily and weekly chores as assigned.