

frequently asked questions

1) HOW LONG WILL MY CHILD BE AT CATHEDRAL HOME FOR CHILDREN?

Currently, the average length of stay for residential clients is approximately 9-12 months. The length of stay can be shorter or longer than this depending on various individual factors. During the 30 day assessment, the treatment team will work hard to identify how they can best help the client meet his/her needs so that he/she can return home successfully.

2) WHAT KINDS OF CLOTHES CAN MY CHILD WEAR? IS THERE A DRESS CODE?

Cathedral Home for Children does have a dress code in order to promote a positive sense of self and healthy environment. Cathedral Home's policy regarding the dress code includes, but is not limited to, clothing being clean, in good repair and not offensive. Clients may not wear clothing that displays images or references to alcohol, sex, death/skulls, violence, drugs, etc. Additionally, clothing that is associated with gangs is not allowed. We also ask that hair is kept neat, clean and conservative.

3) WHEN CAN MY CHILD HAVE COMMUNICATION/CONTACT WITH FAMILY?

We strongly encourage you to have contact with your child, and for your child to have contact with you. We will work with you to determine convenient times for regular phone calls. It's important to us that you stay and feel connected with your child during their residential stay. We encourage your first visits with your child to be on campus if possible. As you develop goals for your family, we support visits home to work on these goals as a family.

4) HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED IN MY CHILD'S TREATMENT AS A PARENT?

Cathedral Home for Children encourages families to be involved in family therapy. We also encourage you to call in during monthly treatment reviews where the client reviews the previous month's treatment goals and establishes new goals. As a guardian you will be notified of any incidents, medication changes, and medical and treatment plan updates. Families can also arrange to visit youth on campus. On campus hotel rooms are also available to families for free. Reservations for these rooms are arranged through the treatment team.

5) WHO ELSE WILL BE PART OF MY CHILD'S TREATMENT TEAM?

The treatment team at Cathedral Home will include the youth workers assigned to the cottage, the cottage therapist, cottage coordinator, members of the educational team, members of the Transition and Aftercare team, and other employees that may be involved in your child's care. In addition, your child's Probation Officer, DFS Worker, or IEP Case Manager will also be part of the treatment team. Other people that could be part of child's treatment team are Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Guardian Ad Litem (GAL), and attorneys.

6) WHERE WILL MY CHILD BE GOING TO SCHOOL?

Cathedral Home for Children has an on-campus school, Mae Olson Education Center. Mae Olson Education Center is a fully accredited high school. The school will determine your child's current credits and grade level, academic needs, etc. and will create a school schedule based on this information.

7) WHAT KIND OF PERSONAL BELONGINGS CAN MY CHILD HAVE WHILE THEY ARE AT CATHEDRAL HOME FOR CHILDREN?

Cathedral Home for Children understands the importance of clients having personal items. We want clients to have their own clothes, pictures of family/friends, hygiene products such as shampoo, soap, hair-brush, make-up, etc., stuffed animals, posters/books that are considered positive, etc. We do not allow residential clients to have cell-phones on-campus. Clients may also not have iPods, Mp3 players, Rated R/X or “not rated” movies, video games, personal digital cameras and medication/substance not prescribed by Cathedral Home for Children medical staff. If a client would like to have music cd’s, money, appropriate movies, etc., this can be discussed and approved by the treatment team. Such items may be locked up to ensure that such items are not lost or stolen. Additionally, if items are approved and later become a distraction to treatment, such items may be locked up or given to parents to take home.

8) DO I NEED TO PROVIDE MY CHILD WITH HYGIENE PRODUCTS, BEDDING AND TOILETRIES DURING THEIR STAY?

Cathedral Home for Children will provide residential clients with basic hygiene products (shampoo, conditioner, tooth paste, tooth brush etc.), comforter, bed sheets, pillow and towels.

9) WHAT TYPE OF SUPERVISION DOES THE PROGRAM PROVIDE?

Clients are supervised 24 hours a day. Cottage staff members do not live on cottages but the day is split up in three different shifts; morning, evening and overnight (staff are awake at all times).

10) HOW CAN THE TRANSITION AND AFTERCARE PROGRAM HELP MY YOUTH?

Cathedral Home for Children’s Transition and Aftercare program helps the youth successfully transition from one life stage to another. Upon the youth’s arrival a Transition Specialist will be waiting for youth and families to begin a campus orientation. Toward the beginning of the youths stay, a transition plan is put into place and developed by the family as a unit. A Transition Specialist will also help youth develop independent living skills, obtain birth certificate, social security card and state ID, if youth does not already have them, and will also help the youth and families explore and set up services in their returning community.

11) WHO DO I CALL IF I HAVE A CONCERN REGARDING MY CHILD?

Cathedral Home for Children encourages you to call your child’s Cottage, Cottage Coordinator or Cottage Therapist.

12) WHAT IF MY CHILD IS ON MEDICATION OR PUT ON MEDICATION DURING THEIR STAY?

Medication changes are reviewed with case workers and guardians before they are put into place. Upon discharge, clients are sent home with current medications and a prescription for a 30 day supply. Discharged clients are also given a discharge packet that outlines all medical appointments, medications, and follow up care.

13) WHAT ARE THE AGES OF YOUTH AT CHC? HOW DO YOU DETERMINE ROOM ASSIGNMENTS?

Room assignments are determined by many factors, including but not limited to, age, developmental level, behavior, history of aggression, etc. The typical age range is 12-18.