

BRIARPATCH SHELTER RULES

Please read these rules carefully and ask a staff person if you have questions about rules or expectations. It is your responsibility to know and follow these rules.

*Please be safe, kind, and respectful while staying in shelter. **Since the shelter rules exist for your safety and for the safety of others, violation of any rules may result in discharge from the shelter.***

A. Shelter Rules

1. Everyone is expected to be respectful towards shelter staff and residents in both behavior and language. Swearing is not allowed. Harmful language about race, gender identity, sexuality, personal appearance, and/or body type is not tolerated.
2. Use or possession of alcohol, marijuana, other illegal drugs, or prescription drugs that were not prescribed for your personal use is not allowed. **This applies to the entire time you are staying at the shelter whether you are in the building or not.**
3. Cigarettes, cigars, vapes and other tobacco products are not allowed in the shelter or on building grounds. These items will be confiscated and turned over to your parent/guardian or to authorities if found or destroyed.
4. No matches, cigarette lighters, candles, and other items with an open flame are allowed in the shelter. These items will be confiscated if found.
5. Theft or possession of stolen property is not allowed.
6. Sexual contact with other clients is not allowed.
7. Dating of other shelter clients is not allowed.
8. Physical fighting or “rough-housing” (pushing, tripping, hitting, etc.) is not allowed. “Play fighting” is not allowed.
9. Weapons of any kind are not allowed. This includes knives of any size. These items will be taken from you and given to your parent/guardian or destroyed.
10. Clothing must cover the body from upper chest to mid-thigh. Shoes or socks must be worn at all times except in bedrooms and bathrooms.
11. Gang related language, signs, and clothing are not allowed.
12. Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned in to staff during your stay in shelter for secure storage. You may have these devices during free time in the common area and when you leave the shelter for school, work, or other reasons. These items must be returned to staff when you return to the shelter and at the end of free time. Electronic items are not allowed in the bedroom hallway, bathrooms, bedrooms, or laundry room.
13. Taking pictures or videos and video call/chats are not allowed, to protect confidentiality. If you need to make a video call, talk to shelter staff about going into a private area.
14. Daily school attendance is required. If you are suspended/expelled from school, you will be given other projects to work on during school hours.
15. **Rules are designed for your safety and for the safety of others and are not negotiable.**

Your parent, guardian, or legal custodian will be told the reason(s) for your discharge from the shelter

B. Expectations

1. Clients are expected to help prepare meals and/or help with clean-up afterwards.
2. Clients are expected to keep their room clean, help with daily chores, and do their own laundry.
3. If you do not attend school due to illness, you are expected to spend most of the day resting **in your room**
4. Phone calls using the shelter phone are limited to 15 minutes each. This phone must be shared.

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5. Clients are not allowed to use the electronic devices/cell phones of other clients or staff.
6. Briarpatch is not responsible for lost or stolen phones or electronic devices. We suggest that you do not bring these items to the shelter.
7. Do not loan your personal possessions to others. Staff is not responsible for helping you get back things you have loaned to others.

C. Other Policies

1. Your belongings will be inventoried when you are admitted to and discharged from the shelter.
2. Your bedroom and personal possessions may be searched by staff when there is to believe that there is a safety or security concern and/or is we suspect you have prohibited items in your room.
3. There are four (4) bedrooms in the shelter. Clients are only allowed in the assigned bedroom and may only use their assigned bed.
4. Bedroom doors shall remain open except when you are changing clothes.
5. Videos/movies with a TV-MA, R, or X rating cannot be viewed. Youth may be asked to stop viewing a movie/program/video at staff discretion.
6. The TV must be off during meals, group meetings, and chore time.
7. Dying and/or cutting hair, piercing of body parts, and tattooing is not allowed.

D. Outings

1. "Outings" are identified as time being spent outside of shelter and off the property, without a shelter staff member providing supervision, They are typically recreational based activities.
2. School, paid work, or court related groups/meetings/appointments are not considered outings and attendance at these events is expected.
3. Clients must have permission from a guardian to go on outings.
4. **Clients may NOT go on outings with another shelter client**
5. Shelter curfew is 8:00p.m. Clients are expected to be in shelter by this time or have had contact with a Briarpatch employee notifying of a late arrival.

E. Visitors

1. Visiting hours are from 6:00-8:00p.m. daily. Visitors are welcome in the Shelter Annex (Training Room) but are not allowed in the main shelter.
2. Visitors are limited to parents, guardians, legal custodians, siblings, grandparents, other adult family members, and service professionals. Shelter clients are encouraged to invite these individuals to visit while they are at the shelter.

I acknowledge that I have read and agree to follow these rules, policies, and expectations, and I have received a copy of this document.

Client Signature

Date

Staff Signature

Date

Client #: _____