

Project Morning Star House Policies

OVERVIEW

Morning Star House is an adult residential recovery community. *Morning Star House* rules are designed to accomplish specific recovery goals and to protect the health and safety of its residents. It can be tempting to see rules, regulations and expectations as restrictive or punishing, but they are in place for the safety of our residents and staff and to help you stay on the path to recovery. To view these rules in an oppositional or grudging manner is counter-productive to your recovery and may potentially jeopardize your residency at *Morning Star House*. Please read and consider each of these rules carefully and decide whether you are willing to commit to ALL of them, not some or most of them; they are non-negotiable. It would be impossible to list every rule or situation, so some common sense must be used. Any group of people living together clearly requires organization and team work in order for the house to function smoothly. Many of the rules are related to these kinds of household details. In addition, *and more importantly*, each of these rules has a similar, corresponding “rule” in the outside world of work, family, life, etc. Breaking of these rules will result in a review and possible discharge from our home and termination of your Resident Agreement. Often, people suffering from dependency have patterns of irresponsible behavior resulting in lost jobs, lost relationships, loss of self-respect, and etc. By recognizing and using these rules as positive guidelines, each of us can strengthen our recovery by learning to live orderly and responsible lives.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- a. **Biblical Principles** – As a Christ-Centered recovery program, our organizational structure is based upon New Testament scriptural principles and the teachings and commandments of Jesus Christ. As such, regular attendance of Celebrate Recovery (CR) meetings and worship services are mandatory. Residents are free to attend a church of their choice, provided it is of a Christian based philosophy. This will not only help you to understand the reasons for our rules and requirements, but will provide you with the spiritual armor you need to confront and conquer the various issues which have taken control of your life.
- b. **Sobriety** - Continuous sobriety is necessary for residents at *Morning Star House*. Should a resident resume usage, the resident will be terminated and discharged immediately from *Morning Star House*. If a resident has reason to believe another resident has been drinking or using drugs, he/she is to inform a staff member so that the staff can confront the resident in a sensitive way, and appropriate action can be taken. Anonymity will be respected. A drug screen (UA) may be requested when there is suspected chemical use.

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- c. **Length Of Stay** – There is a minimum stay of 90 days for residency at *Morning Star House*. The maximum length of residency is 12 months. The *Project Morning Star* Board reserves the right to allow individuals to stay at the House on a short-term, temporary basis, in the case(s) of an emergency need.
- d. **Cost** - The standard rent is a flat rate of **\$500.00** per month (rent includes all utilities). All new residents are required to pay a minimum of a **\$100.00**, which will be applied to their deposit, prior to moving into the home. Each application is presented to a committee appointed by the Board of Directors to be considered on an individual basis, as to the applicant's suitability for residency and ability to pay. Applications by individuals who are not employed or have no means of monthly income or support may be assessed a lower rental amount for the first three months of residency. All residents are required to pay the full rental amount by their 4th month of residency. The Director and Morning Star staff will assist the resident in obtaining employment. A payment plan will be established in order for the resident to pay the full required deposit amount of \$500.00.
- e. **House Meetings** - In addition to attendance at CR and worship services, all residents are required to attend the weekly house meeting. A mandatory weekly house meeting will be held on Sundays at 1:00 PM. All house issues, concerns, and business will be discussed at this meeting. All house meetings are CLOSED MEETINGS for current residents. No guests or non-residents are allowed.

MORNING STAR HOUSE RULES:

(Violation of "Zero Tolerance" rules is grounds for immediate expulsion and possible legal or criminal charges)

- A. **Zero Tolerance** for drug or alcohol use. Engaging in illegal substance manufacturing, possession or distribution will be grounds for immediate expulsion from the program and will be reported to the authorities.
- B. **Zero Tolerance** for firearms or weapons of any kind on *Project Morning Star* property or at related functions. Personal pocket knives must be of the folding variety and have a blade length of 3 inches or less.
- C. **Zero Tolerance** for stealing. Taking food or using the personal articles of others without permission is considered stealing. Stealing will be treated as the crime that it is and reported to the authorities.

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- D. **Zero Tolerance** for destruction of *Project Morning Star* property or the personal property of other residents.
- E. **Zero Tolerance** for sexual activity between residents (unless a legally married couple in a family unit).
- F. **Zero Tolerance** for physical confrontation or verbal confrontation with any staff or resident. All disputes and disagreements must be resolved through the proper and prescribed procedures. Physical violence directed at another person or *Morning Star House* staff/property will be grounds for immediate termination. In addition, any language or gestures determined by staff to be consistently abusive or threatening may be grounds for termination. It is expected that residents will not engage in enabling behavior.
- G. **Zero Tolerance** for trespassing onto neighboring properties. Residents **MUST** remain on *Project Morning Star* property or public right-of ways (such as roads and bike paths for the purpose of walking, jogging or biking) during their residency. Residents will respect the rights and privacy of our neighbors at all times. Loud music, speeding, or littering in the neighborhood will not be tolerated and may result in sanctions.
- H. Residents who are on probation or parole must be in compliance with their probation/parole agreements. Residents must sign releases with their corrections agents to allow *Project Morning Star* staff to communicate with their agents.
- I. Residents are expected to maintain law-abiding lifestyles. Illegal activities are not condoned by *Morning Star House* and are grounds for termination. Those who are charged with or witnessed by staff or *Project Morning Star* Board members in the commission of committing an illegal act(s) may be immediately terminated from residency.
- J. Any visitor to *Morning Star House* property will be asked to leave immediately if *Project Morning Star* staff or residents suspect any use of illegal or illicit drugs, including alcohol. Residents who have been asked to leave due to their own breach of rules will not be permitted back on the property.

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- K. All residents must attend weekly *Celebrate Recovery* meetings at *First Baptist Church of Worthington*, as well as Weekly step-study groups and Worship Services at the church of their choice.
- L. Residents must schedule a brief, weekly one-on-one session with the Program Director for a progress update.
- M. Residents must submit to a drug/alcohol urinalysis (UA) upon the request of the Program Director.
- N. Residents' rooms must be clean at all times. Residents' beds are to be made when the residents are not in the bed. Doors are to be left open when residents are not in their rooms or are at work.
- O. Curfew is 11:00 PM Sunday through Thursday and 12:00 AM Friday and Saturday for the first 30 days with no exceptions. (Curfew may be lifted after 30 days provided the resident is employed and in good standing with *Morning Star House*.)
- P. Residents must sleep at the house each night unless prior arrangements have been made with staff. Overnight passes are given after 30 days living at *Morning Star House*. (Maximum of 2 per week).
- Q. Residents are not permitted to have overnight guests. All visitors to the property must be approved by staff and must be off the property by 11:00 PM.
- R. Residents having unusual job requirements or hours must have *Project Morning Star* staff approval.
- S. Residents must be employed or enrolled in school within the first 30 days of intake. Residents not employed or in school must report to the Director for work assignments on the property by 9 AM daily (weekdays only) and work until 4 PM (with 2 fifteen minute breaks and a half-hour lunch).
- T. All residents will perform 3 hrs. of mandatory household/property maintenance chores per week.

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- U. Smoking and/or tobacco products are not permitted inside of any buildings on the campus. Tobacco use will be permitted only in outdoor areas and all cigarette butts, spit cups, etc. will be properly disposed of in designated receptacles.
- V. Residents are not permitted to drive the *Morning Star* vehicles without permission. Due to insurance liabilities, only authorized individuals are allowed to drive the facility owned van or use any motorized or electronic equipment.
- W. Residents are required to sign a Waiver of Liability and Release of Information.