

Expectations of Interfaith Works Homeless Services Program

Welcome, we're glad you're here! In order to stay at our shelter or access the Community Care Center (CCC) for services, there are expectations that we have of everyone in and around any of our locations. These expectations have always been in place in our programs, but they are worded more clearly now. If you have any questions about these expectations, ask to talk privately with a staff person--we are here for you. You are able to make your own decision about whether to stay here or not, and if you are unable to meet these expectations, we may ask you to leave.

Come As You Are, Accept Others As They Are

Treat yourself and everyone with respect and dignity.

Be Safe, Act Safe

No violence! Violence includes (but is not limited to) targeting someone because of their sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, gender/gender expression, age, ability, religious beliefs, etc. Violence can take the form of threats, hate speech, recognized symbols of oppression, unwanted physical contact, verbal and physical sexual harassment and assault and/or verbal and emotional abuse. Weapons of any kind are not allowed at the shelter or the CCC. You may check smaller weapons like knives, pocket knives, bats, hatchets etc. with staff and get them back. Guns are never allowed under any circumstances!

Respect People's Bodies/What They Do With Their Bodies

There are many different kinds of people here and all are welcome exactly as they are. We expect that you will not talk about, comment on, insult, use slurs, shame or otherwise remark about people's appearances or bodies to other guests or in common areas of the shelter or the CCC. If you are annoyed with someone, don't make it about their race, ethnicity, gender/gender expression, sexual orientation, drug use, age, body size, or anything like that. If you are confused, have questions about another guest, staff person or volunteer, or feel like you are being targeted, please ask for support from a staff person in private—you are not alone.

Respect the Routine

Shelter: We open at 5pm each day. The gate closes each night at 9pm so you need to let us know if you are going to be late or miss a night. We expect you to arrive on time, leave on time, and not be on the church property while we are closed. Never walk over the top walkway to get past the gate...like...ever.

CCC: The day room is open Sunday-Friday (closed Saturday) and the doors are open from 10am-5pm. The gate to the outdoor area opens at 9:30 and closes at 5:30pm.

No Sex In/Around The Shelter or CCC at Anytime/No Nudity in Common Areas

Shelter: Common areas include dorms, all sleeping areas, the lounge, the office, bathroom areas, the lobby, the kitchen, the clothing room and the outdoor area.

CCC: Common areas include: The day room, clinic/service area, community room, and outdoor area.

Respect and Protect the Space

Clean up after yourself, help out when you can, pick up trash outside, be good to our neighbors, no illegal or dangerous activities, no fighting, don't blow up the spot, etc.

Shelter: Sleep only in the bed or mat that you were assigned for the night. We have fire code regulations and need to be able to respond to emergencies adequately so we can't have people sleeping outside, in the lounge etc. unless a staff person has specifically okayed it for that night.

CCC: There is no camping in or around the building or the parking lot area and personal belongings need to be contained at all times.

No Drug Use/Dealing

While we can't have drugs/drug use on the property, we always try to create an environment where people can talk openly about their use. If you have used and are at risk of overdose or worried about your safety, please tell us! We are here to help and want you to be as safe as possible. Being open and honest with us about your risk of overdose/fears around your use will not jeopardize your ability to access the shelter or the CCC. We have narcan at both our locations.

Take Responsibility For Yourself and Your Belongings

Including bikes, carts, and pets. Visitors with pets must follow the pet policy at both the shelter and CCC.

Shelter: All belongings must fit under your bed area and can't block any walkways/fire exits. Guests should expect personal belongings that exceed the bed area limit will be removed from the shelter; this will happen daily for One Night Stay (ONS) guests and weekly for assigned guests. ONS guests must take all belongings with them each morning. All ONS guest personal belongings that are left behind will be thrown away. Bikes that are stored in the bike rack area over 24 hours will be removed each day. Personal belongings may not be left on or around the church grounds.

CCC: All belongings must be taken with you by closing time each day. We do not hold belongings overnight. Items left behind are discarded the same day. No bikes are allowed in the building unless disassembled and only one per person. We cannot accommodate carts, large shopping carts, double strollers or anything of similar size in the building at any time.

Respect the Neighborhood

Shelter: Treat the church building, parking lot, grounds and all people that use the church with respect, dignity and compassion. Treat all neighboring businesses, and residents with that same level of respect. Please don't leave personal belongings stashed around or block entryways to the neighboring businesses/other people in the neighborhood.

CCC: Treat the building, outdoor area, parking lot, and all surrounding areas with respect, dignity, and compassion. Treat all neighboring businesses and residents with that same level of respect. Please don't leave personal belongings stashed around, under the overhang, in neighboring parking lots, or blocking entryways to the neighboring businesses/other people in the neighborhood.

Fighting, yelling, disturbing the neighborhood, etc. puts the shelter and the CCC at risk! In other words, don't blow up the spot! We will always aim to resolve a situation before asking someone to leave. However, if you are unable to meet these expectations, you may be asked to leave. We will make barring decisions with compassion and only to re-establish safety within our programs.

Signature _____ Date: _____

Printed Name _____

Staff initials that guest received this information if signature is not given _____