

Growing Together, Inc.

Host Home

Host homes are an important part of the **Growing Together, Inc.** program. Having the client stay in a temporary home helps prepare them to return to their own home by giving them an opportunity to experience another family system that is functioning well, albeit, not perfectly, by using the program tools. Having new comers in your home helps the old comer to be stronger. This activity enables the family to practice the "basics" while knowing the satisfaction of helping a new comer. Parents are encouraged to allow the old comer take the lead in household duties. Parents are instructed on client manipulation and encouraged not to be manipulated by the new comers or allow the new comers to "play off" (see Glossary of Terms, page 49) the old comer.

Growing Together, Inc. staff requires you to make your home available as a host home. All host home parents and anyone 18 years or older must be screened by the federal and local law enforcement, sign a notarized "Moral Affidavit of Good Moral Character", have three personal references and clear child abuse registry (locally and through the Federal Bureau of Investigation). Host parents must maintain their homes according to the following standards:

1. Maintain current home owners or tenants insurance, along with state required automobile insurance (copies of current policies, or copy of the face cover sheet of the policy must be provided to the Admissions Manager for the Host Parent file).
2. The host parents and any sibling over the age of 18 years is to be trained in CPR, CPI, and 1st Aid, along with information provided on HIV/AIDS/Hep "B". Copies of these training certification will be kept in the Host Parent file by the Admissions Manager).
3. Siblings over the age of 18 years, yet under the age of 24 years are only allowed to use verbal CPI intervention techniques, when necessary. Siblings over the age of 24 may assist their parents in the physical holding of client, if necessary, when using CPI.
4. House Rules and Consequences are posted and reviewed by the clients (each time a new client to the home comes to the home).
5. The home is equipped with working smoke detectors and emergency exits routes for fire safety.
6. Clients are notified of emergency fire exits and an outside meeting place, from the first time a client stays in that home.
 - Safe and sanitary conditions are maintained.
 - Nutritious breakfasts, lunch on Sunday and other meals as specified are provided.
 - Adequate sleeping accommodations are provided (bed, cot, air mattress, sleeping bags).
 - There is adequate home security to keep intruders out.
 - No client is locked in any room for any reason.
 - Passage door knobs are required on program bedroom and bathroom doors.
 - A bedroom window is available for egress in case of fire.
 - The home environment is secure and emotionally warm.
 - The host home parents are present and provide at a minimum of one parent on site, with eyes on supervision at all times, with the exception of when the clients are in the program bathroom or program room (unless the same sexed parent is requested to be in one of

these rooms by the old comer).

The host parents maintain regular communication with **Growing Together, Inc.** by attending meetings as required and through COA.

In an emergency or incident, **Growing Together, Inc.** staff are notified immediately.

Telephone numbers of DCF are posted in clear view for any client who feels they have been or are being abused or neglected. Keep COA posted in clear view (on refrigerator) also. Keep an extra set in the parent's bedroom.

Elopement requires the parent to notify their local police or sheriff's department immediately, then COA. Staff will notify the parents of the eloped client.

All medications and products containing alcohol are to be removed from clients' access.

All sharp object and aerosol cans are to be removed from clients' access.

The program identified bedroom and bathroom are cleared of all items which could create a diversion to any clients.

Program Bedroom:

- No sharp objects, check corners of the carpet to ensure that the carpet is in tact and does not have any chemicals hiding underneath.
- Remove all electrical outlets and check for hidden drugs, then replace outlet covers.
- Check pockets of all clothing of the identified client to ensure no hidden items.
- All clothing must be removed from the bedroom.
- Small alarms (we have some which were donated back to us if you need them), two each are needed, one for the bedroom door, placed strategically so that the clients may not open the door without the alarm going off, notifying the home that the clients are moving. The other alarm is for the window (egress for fire), again strategically placed so that the client may not open the window (or maybe even touch the screen) without the alarm notifying the home that the clients are attempting to open the window. These alarms may be purchased at Radio Shack for under \$10.00 each and are battery operated.
- A baby monitor must be installed in the program room (if no intercom system is in the home), connecting to the parents bedroom so that any unusual activity may be heard by the parents. If the clients disconnect the monitor or cover it with a pillow, the monitor "squalls" in the parent's bedroom, notifying the parents that the clients are not using the monitor properly.
- Beds, mattresses, cots, egg crates with blankets are fine for sleeping conditions. Clean linens MUST be provided to each new client coming into the home. It is best to have a mattress, cot, bed, per client and not "double up" the clients for sleeping.

Program Bathroom

- The program bathroom must be cleared of all items with the exception of soap (no specially medicated soap, ivory soap is fine); towels, wash clothes; and in case the kids forget, extra toothpaste tooth brushes, combs, no "brand" name shampoo, no "brand" name conditioner, etc. No RAZORS are allowed to be kept in the bathroom. If the clients are 2nd phase or higher, they may use razors, they are to

ask the host parents for one and then the 2nd phase client becomes responsible to care for that sharp object and return it to the host parent. Shaving cream is provided by the host parent, by spraying a small amount (enough for use) into the clients hand. Again no aerosol cans until 6th phase.

- The clients have the right to privacy when using the toilet. They can be by themselves in the program bathroom, with the door ajar 6 inches. Remember no locks may be on the bathroom or program bedroom doors.
- If your bathroom has a window, an alarm must be placed on the inside or outside of that window, allowing for security with the client's privacy.
- The client has the right to privacy when taking a shower. No "see through" shower curtains may be used. Although all clients are in the bathroom during shower time, the right to privacy takes effect when the client is in the actual shower. Cleaning supplies, sibling supplies needed to share the bathroom may be placed in a carry container (Rubbermaid® makes one which is quite easy to use), for the siblings to carry their items with them when they use the program bathroom.

Example of House Rules And Consequences

- Priorities before pleasures (meaning MI's are written and shared, showers are completed, etc). Cons: Small snacks for EVERYONE, and early to bed.
- Five (5) minute showers. Cons: Clean bathroom completely immediately following all showers.
- No cussing for any reason. Cons: 500 word essay on "More appropriate words to express how I am feeling".
- No breaking anything in anger. Cons: Mop all tile floors and hand dry.
- No passing gas in the kitchen. Cons: Five minute explanation on the reasons for having manners.

Fit these to your home, things that you cannot live without controlling. Begin with no more than ten (10) house rules. They will grow. All consequences must be completed prior to returning to the building the following day.