

Restoration House Rules

(This copy is to be mailed back with the completed application.)

- A. Restoration House rules are not suggestions; they are mandatory and non-negotiable. All spiritual guidelines are to be followed and are mandatory. The Restoration House is founded on godly Christian principles. While we do not discriminate against any religion, race, or ethnic background, any prospective resident needs to be aware of what is expected before they enter into this contract. Disregarding any of the spiritual guidelines will result in immediate discipline and could lead to being brought before the local parole officer, being rejected from the house, and perhaps even receiving a parole violation. Restoration House will accept people of other religious preferences as long as they will agree to follow all rules and even the spiritual guidelines set up in this program. If one finds these rules or spiritual guidelines too harsh, he (or she) will be advised to find a house where the rules are more suitable to his personal convictions. If there needs to be a choice between the rules or a resident being dismissed, we assure you it will be the resident being dismissed, not changing the rules.
- B. The reason for developing this program is to help anyone who has been incarcerated to be a better mother or father, son or daughter; and to make changes in the lives of all who enter this program; changes that will carry over to their children and their children's children, ending the cycle of crime in each of these families. If you feel the rules are stricter than prison, you are right, but once you committed the crime and were convicted and sentenced, you had no choice but to go to prison. You do have a choice whether or not to come into this program. It is the desire of this program to mold positive habits into the character of its residents, habits that make God their number one priority - above making a living, above one's wife and children - allowing nothing to take the place of God in their lives. If this program keeps someone out of prison, but the life of that person is not changed in a manner that assures a Christ-like life, it has failed. Keeping someone out of prison will come from the changed life in the resident due to the spiritual guidelines becoming habits in their lives and most importantly, from a renewed mind through the inerrant Word of God.
- C. In order for the residents to take the spiritual guidelines seriously, the Director and all of the staff must be godly members of God's family. All staff members will be godly men and women who carry themselves in a manner of the highest calling of children of God. Like the residents, all the staff will face discipline for disregarding any of the spiritual guidelines or rules for the house. Staff must be an example at all times for the residents. Allowing infractions by anyone will just cause discontent with those who are trying to be renewed in the Spirit. Discipline will vary from minor to dismissal, depending on the nature of the violation and the frequency of the abuse.
- D. We want everyone to know that it is not the intent of this program to make this house worse than prison. Some of the ones putting together this program are ex-offenders; we realize prison does not establish character in the inmates. It punishes, separates, and restricts an inmate from further crimes toward society for a time. When the time is up, changed or not, the inmate leaves prison. Whatever training he or she might have received, along with the spiritual programs they took advantage of, will be the root of any real change. This program is meant to establish good morals, good work habits, the ability to budget and spend money sensibly, and the desire to live a life above reproach. When outsiders look at the results of this program, we pray that they will see the highest success rate of any post-release program. It is not only our desire for the residents not to return to crime or prison, but we also strive for them to not return to a life of sin.

Restoration House Rules

1. The Restoration House is a one-year program; leaving the program any earlier without the approval of the House Director and staff will violate the contract. Dismissal from the program or leaving because of refusal to follow all rules could result in re-incarceration. If a resident seems to be doing extremely well and there is a consensus to release him or her early that has the approval of the House director and staff, this will not be a violation of the contract.
2. Most food, clothing, bed linen, and personal hygiene items will be provided for the residents. Since they have usually existed in prison, in most cases, with less than \$50 a month, certainly \$50 a week should be more than enough to meet any needs not provided by Restoration House. The resident will have to learn to live within his or her means and will not be allowed to have money sent into the program from outside by family members. With most of their needs being provided, if a man or woman cannot live on \$50 a week, we will reevaluate this part of the program.
3. There will be daily chores at the house. Each resident will have his or her job assigned either for the week or month. They will be expected to complete their chores and will be rewarded for doing the best job possible. When men or women volunteer to pray, read the Bible aloud at meetings, lead a Bible study, or do other duties at the house, they will be rewarded.
 - a. Reward could be extra time in town away from the house, special privileges or being taken off some of the least enjoyable chores of the house for a period of time.
 - b. Refusal to do one's chores, arguing back when asked to something, or a foul attitude could result in someone being assigned the worst tasks for a certain period of time or privileges being taken away.
4. During the time in this program, we will be happy to teach anyone interested how to write checks, how to save money no matter how little you earn, how to set and stick to a family budget, and how to shop wisely and look for bargains.
 - a. This type of training will be set up for husband and wife to attend together. Of course, family participation will be voluntary.
 - b. There will be other types of family seminars such as, marital counseling, alcohol & drug counseling, counseling for troubled youth, and other programs as the need arises.
 - c. Certainly, it is in the best interest of everyone involved for the family to learn a new, improved way to live together, and we will do our best to provide as many beneficial programs as possible.
5. There will be absolutely no gambling. This includes baseball or football pools, or betting on the winner of any sporting events. **No** card games or board games where money is exchanged will be permitted. In other words, **no** games of chance will be permitted for profit.
6. There will be **no** lending of money or borrowing by any resident. Each resident will be given \$50 a week to spend freely from his or her income. When that is gone, they will have to wait until the next payday (week) to receive another \$50. They will be expected to pay \$150 a week for room & board. They will be expected to pay court costs and any restitution that they were ordered to pay by the court. They will be expected to take care of their family, but court costs and restitution are a priority. After all, their family has done without their income up to this point while he or she was incarcerated, so that will not be used as a reason not to save money or pay court costs or restitution. When the family has bills due, they will present the bills, and after assuring these to be legitimate, the bill will be paid. No money will just be handed to anyone for him or her to pay the bills. It is in the interest of the residents and the program to see to all essential needs of the families of all residents, but less necessary items like cable

TV, cell phone bills, etc. will not be a priority for payment. Part of the idea of this program is to encourage wise spending and saving of money for emergencies.

7. Other income will be saved monthly after bills are caught up. It will be saved for when the resident completes the program and is released. If by chance the resident has no court costs or family to support, they will save their income up for the year they are at the house and be given a check for the total amount at the date of their completion of the program.
8. All meetings, devotional times, and group counseling sessions will be mandatory unless there is written permission from the House Director or staff to not attend.
9. The staff will determine the amount of time the resident may be away from the house; otherwise, the residents will go to work and all programs as a group. When a resident has earned the privilege of going to town, or to the movies, or to go shopping without a staff member, he or she will be expected to act in a Godly manner and return before their allotted time to be back at the house.
 - a. Failure to be back in time will result in privileges being revoked for a period to be determined by the House Director. Even if a vehicle breaking down is the reason the resident is late, it will usually end in discipline. The resident will need to take some responsibility for such emergencies.
10. Efforts for getting a resident's driver's license restored will be handled with the help and permission of the parole officer. However, having one's personal vehicle at the house will not be allowed until the resident has proven himself or herself and has successfully completed a certain portion of the program with **no** infractions of the rules. The House Director and staff, with approval of the parole officer, will determine when and if a resident is allowed this benefit.
 - a. Driving is another reward one can look forward to as they volunteer for certain lead positions in group meetings and do their chores willingly and with enthusiasm. Attitude is of the utmost importance in evaluating a resident for special privileges. Doing something with a bad attitude is next to not doing it at all.
11. Vulgar, offensive, or hurtful language is completely forbidden. Since there will be mixed staff, courteous and polite communication will be mandatory.
 - a. If disagreements become too heated, someone needs to address with the staff or House Director. Doing so does not result in being a snitch, since this effort could save one or both of the residents from returning to incarceration.
 - b. This house has zero tolerance for physical or verbal abuse. Residents fighting will be immediately reported to their parole officer, and the House Director will recommend that the resident responsible be removed at once. Since the safety of the other residents and staff is of the utmost importance, absolutely no fighting or arguing that could lead to a physical confrontation will be allowed.
 - c. This house has zero tolerance for racial comments of any kind. Women, staff and guests **will** always be shown the utmost respect. Visitation from family members will be discontinued for serious infractions for a period of time to be determined by the staff or House Director.
12. There will be a dress code in **all** areas of the house.
 - a. All residents will be clothed at all times other than bathing or showers.
 - b. When going to and from the shower, the resident will be dressed. He or she can undress in the bathroom and redress before exiting.

- c. Even in the bed or sleeping area, the residents will be dressed in a manner of modesty. Perhaps pajamas or shorts would be acceptable. No sleeping in the nude or with only underclothes will be allowed.
13. There will be **no** smoking in the house. There will be an area provided for smokers if they must smoke. This is the only area where smoking will be permitted. This area will have ashtrays, even though they are outside, and this area will be kept clean by the smokers. Otherwise, there will be an extra chore in addition to a house chore.
14. When it is time to go to bed and lights go off, all residents will be expected to be in bed during the work week. Getting up in the morning (or after work) for devotionals is not **debatable**. Being present for all programs and spiritual events is **mandatory**, unless excused for a good reason by the House Director or staff.
15. Work is **mandatory**. If a resident has a physical disability that does not allow him or her to work on the construction sites with the other residents, this resident will still be expected to earn his or her keep. A job suitable to the ability of this resident will be provided.
 - a. If a resident continues to miss work for no good reason, he (or she) will be penalized. He will still have to pay room and board, court costs, restitution, and take care of his family. If funds become exhausted, the first expense to go will be his \$50 allowance. Bills will be paid from any money he has in his account until the resident returns to work. Since this program needs funds to survive, if a resident can no longer provide for himself (and family), we will then refer him over to social services to be evaluated by professionals to see if he has a legitimate claim for unemployment or disability. **He will need to be removed from the program if he (or she) cannot provide some sort of income.**
16. If for any reason a resident is off from work yet able to work, he or she will be expected to help around the house. Sunday will be a day of rest for the most part. All chores will be to a minimum; however, all church services, Bible studies, and prayer meetings during the off-work time is mandatory.
17. Phone calls from the house will be kept to a minimum. Long distance calls will be made only with approval through the House Director or staff. Family visits will be limited to Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Family is encouraged to attend church with the resident whenever possible, and family will be invited to attend some programs and counseling sessions. There may be a two or three-week period of adjustment before a resident can have visits; this is up to the staff, House Director and parole officer.
 - a. If there are legal reasons (like a court order) that the spouse is not allowed to see his or her family, all that will need to be worked out through the court system and the parole officer before the family can visit the house.
 - b. The house **must know the location of the resident at all times** by a sign in & out sheet. When someone signs out, there will be an expectation of where he or she is, and when he or she will expect to be back. If that changes for any reason, a phone call will be expected notifying the house of new information. However, there will **no** excuses for being out after curfew.
 - c. Curfew will be a time set by the House Director depending on the day of the week and how long the resident has been in the program. Usually, during the week, the residents will go to work and come home from work and not go out again unless it is to a Christian event such as Bible study, prayer meeting, etc.
 - d. Lights out will be between 10:00 and 11:00 PM. All residents will be expected to be in the house before lights out. Weekend lights out will be the same time in most cases because there may be work on Saturday and church on Sunday is also mandatory.

18. Any breakage from horseplay will be paid for by whoever caused the accident. Horseplay is not allowed in the house.
19. This program is for the benefit of men or women who honestly seek the fullness of what God has waiting for them. We fully understand that this program will not be for everyone; however, it is not our desire to try to minimize the program just so more people will feel comfortable in the program. It is the desire of this program to receive those serious about receiving a changed life. If anyone is truly serious about doing better, this program will not be too strict.
20. By signing this contract, you are agreeing to abide by all of these rules, as well as the spiritual guidelines. Someone who agrees to follow these rules and guidelines by signing the contract and then enters the program only to constantly complain or try to change the program, is not be an acceptable program candidate. This is why it is of the utmost importance that before you enter the program, you personally read and fully understand everything. If there is anything that you have any doubts about, someone will explain it to your full understanding before you are required to sign these contracts.

I, _____
Resident's signature

have read the five pages of the Restoration House Rules. I do hereby agree to abide by all rules and guidelines in this document for the year (12 months) of this program. If I fail to follow any rules, I will accept - without argument - the discipline the House Director or house staff deems appropriate.

Date _____

Witnessed by _____
(Institutional Counselor)

Witnessed by _____
(House Director or Staff)