

## DISCIPLINARY POLICIES

Sweeney Youth Homes' list of rules provides basic guidelines for the behavior expected by residents. Beyond these specific rules, however, it is expected that residents will behave in a mature, responsible manner at all times. Should a resident violate a specific rule or exhibit other inappropriate behavior, one or more of the following discipline procedures may be implemented.

**GROUPS** - A special group session may be called, including the offending resident and clinical and general staff. The rule infraction is then discussed in reference to its effect on the individual(s) involved, the program as a whole, and other residents. The group may determine which, if any, fines will result.

**FINES** - Infractions of rules may result in fines, which will be determined by staff. In general, the fines assessed are directly related to the severity of the infraction. For example, the willful destruction of property will result in a fine sufficient to repair or replace the damaged property. Residents will be informed of the suspected or observed infraction and asked for an explanation. If it is determined that the damage occurred willfully, a fine may be assessed. A fine may include the withdrawal of funds from the resident, at which point, the resident would be asked to sign a form authorizing such withdrawal and that form would become part of his/her permanent record.

**RESTRICTIONS** - Infractions may result in restrictions. An example would be a case where the unacceptable behavior endangers a resident. Here a resident might have the range of their usual or special activities reduced.

**COUNSELING** - Discipline problems are examined from the perspective of underlying psychological and emotional problems. As such, they become an integral part of residents' treatment plans and are dealt with, in depth, during therapy.

**JUDICIAL PROCESS** - If a resident commits an act that is illegal, he is dealt with through the traditional judicial process for juveniles. Breaking the law will not be tolerated and may result in expulsion from the program.

**EXPULSION** - Repetitive and severe disciplinary problems may be interpreted as an indication of a resident's lack of respect for Sweeney Youth Homes and/or a need for a different type of program (i.e., one more restrictive and/or structured). In such cases the resident will be removed from the home as soon as more suitable placement can be arranged for the resident.

**BEHAVIORAL CONTRACTS** - Residents may be asked to enter into behavioral contracts in order to control inappropriate behavior. Failure to enter into, or live up to, such contracts or other contingency plan(s) may result in other disciplinary action or removal from Sweeney Youth Homes.

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Resident's Name

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Representative's Name

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Resident's Signature

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Date

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Representative's Signature

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Date