

Catholic Social Services' Teen Homes McAuley Manor and Charlie Elder House

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the Teen Homes about?

Charlie Elder House (CEH) and McAuley Manor (MM) are home like group homes. Our intention is to support youth in reaching their independent goals. These goals include, but are not limited to,:

- Graduating from high school or obtaining a G.E.D.
 - Learning to cook
 - Finding a job
 - Acquiring laundry skills
- Learning daily life skills needed to be successful in the community

What are the general rules of Charlie Elder House/McAuley Manor?

Residents of the program are expected to participate in the program. The Teen Homes are not just a place to live—the program allows the resident to achieve goals in moving toward successful, independent living.

“Work your own program”—you will hear this during your time at the Teen Homes. It means, don't ask staff why someone else gets to do/have something you don't. Each youth is treated on an individual basis.

Residents of the program are expected to be respectful of themselves, other residents, staff, the home, and the community.

Residents are expected to work with staff of CSS and ACS. They should keep appointments and follow through with commitments.

If a resident does not follow the rules or live up to his/her responsibilities, the resident may be discharged from the program to a program that better suits his/her needs at that particular time.

What will my daily schedule be like?

Each resident is required to fill out a personal daily schedule for approval by the Coaching Parent. The daily schedule, planned one day in advance, is the major planning tool for both residents and staff. The schedule must be prepared and followed accurately. Schedules are approved or adjusted according to each resident's plan of care and the responsibility shown by each resident. If plans change, a resident must get permission from staff to deviate from the planned schedule.

Daily plans might include school, work, individual appointments, chores, and cooking a meal for the house (at least once a week).

Can I have a cell phone or computer?

Residents may have electronics in the home, such as cell phones and laptops, if approved by the Coaching Parent and Case Manager.

What kinds of activities are allowed?

Program and community activities are encouraged, and may be either educational or entertainment based.

What things are not allowed at the Teen Homes?

Possession or use of alcohol or illegal drugs

Smoking and use of tobacco products

Violence or threats of violence

Weapons of any kind

Licensing does not permit candles or incense, or the burning of anything, in the bedrooms (This list does not include everything that is not allowed, but contains the things that come up the most frequently)

What is the curfew?

Curfews are set on an individual basis, and may vary from school year to summer and by day of week.

Can I date while at the Teen Homes?

Dating is discouraged, as residents should be focusing on becoming independent.

However, residents 16 years or older are permitted to date. Inappropriate displays of affection and any form of sexual activity is prohibited.

What is the dress code?

Concerns for modesty and safety are the foundation of the dress code:

- No bare midriffs (cover the belly button)

- No "short" shorts

- No see through clothing (sleeves are acceptable)

- No micro-mini-skirts

- No low cleavage

- No visible underwear, including bra straps

- Clothing must be of the appropriate size

- Clothing may not have the following endorsements or advertising:

 - Alcohol/drugs/smoking

 - Gang-related themes

 - Profanity

 - Swastikas

Can I keep/get a job?

Residents who wish to hold a job while in school must maintain at least a "C" average in each class. Residents who hold a high school diploma or GED are encouraged to work.

The work schedule must be pre-approved by the Coaching Parent.

Do I have to go to school?

School attendance is mandatory, and residents are required to put forth academic effort. All school age residents who have not graduated or received a GED must be enrolled full time in school or at a daytime GED program. East High and Wendler Middle are our district schools. School bus transportation is available for those attending these schools. If a student wishes to go to a different school, a zone exemption is required, and the student is responsible for his/her own transportation.

Do I have to do chores?

Each resident is responsible for chores and the upkeep of the house. Residents will be assigned chores. Residents will also be required to cook at least one meal per week. Residents are expected to clean up after themselves and to participate in the care of the home.

Where do I keep my belongings?

Each youth will store his/her belongings in their own room. There are 4 bedrooms at each home. Three youth in each home have their own bedroom; 2 will share a room.

Can I have my own money?

Youth may establish their own savings, checking, or Trust Fund accounts. These must be reviewed with staff in order to demonstrate the ability to budget and manage funds, including savings.

Can people visit me?

Guests are welcome but must be approved by staff. Guests must abide by program rules. Residents are responsible for ensuring this. Visitors must remain in the common areas of the house. Anyone visiting must be on a parent/guardian approved contact list and will have to go through a background check.

Can I spend time with my friends outside of the Teen Homes?

All individuals whom a resident desires to spend time with outside the home must have approval from the parent/guardian via written consent, a background check, and a minimum of 5 staff supervised visits within the home before any outing can occur. Residents must provide name and phone contact information for friends and their friends' parents/guardians if they wish to spend time with friends outside the home. If residents will be riding in a friends vehicle, written consent must be obtained from resident's parent/guardian. Any driver transporting a resident must provide proof of registration, insurance, and a copy of his/her driving record to remain on file at the home.

How will I get around?

Each resident is required to use public transportation to travel in the community.

Will I have privacy?

Because safety is a top priority, we reserve the right to conduct room searches if we believe the safety of our residents, staff, or facilities is in question. A resident will be

informed of the search prior to the actual search, if time and circumstances permit. Otherwise, neither staff nor other residents will enter your room without knocking.