



Parent Questions for Residential Therapeutic Programs

Admissions

- What are your admission criteria?
- Who reviews my child's application? What are their credentials?
- What are the costs? What does this cost cover?
- Are there additional costs? If so, what are they?
- How long will the admissions process take?
- Who will I be meeting during the admissions process?
- Will I be able to say goodbye to my child after the admissions process is complete?

Licensing and Accreditation

- Are you licensed by the State? What type of license is it? What State office issued the license?
- Are you accredited by a mental health agency, such as Joint Commission (JCAHO), Council on Accreditation (COA), Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)
- Do you have a Clinical Director? What are his/her credentials? May I meet him/her?
- What are the credentials of the staff that will be working with my child? Specifically the credentials of the counselors and/or therapists. Are they certified? Licensed within your State?
- What organizations are you affiliated with?

Therapeutic Model/Clinical

- Will my child be receiving clinical therapy? How often?
- What will be expected of the parents during the program?
- Do you provide family therapy?
- Do you provide group therapy? If so, who facilitates it? Are there specific group therapies offered? (i.e. adoption issues, drug/alcohol abuse, etc.)
- How is my child's progress judged? Who participates in determining my child's progress?

Academics

- Do you provide an academic curriculum?
- If so, what is the core curriculum?
- Are you accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency? Is this accreditation through a 3rd party? If so, what is their name?
- Do you have teachers? If so, are they certified or licensed within your State?
- How many students are in a class?
- Is your academic curriculum internet/computer based?
- Do you offer high school credits that can be transferred to other educational institutions?
- Do you award high school diplomas?

Medication

- Can my child be on medication while at your facility?
- Who is responsible for the medication management? His/her credentials?
- Where is the medication stored? Who has access to the medication?
- Who administers the medication? What is their training?

Direct Care Staff

- What type of training is provided to your direct care staff?
- What are their duties and qualifications?
- Do you perform background checks? Who does the background check? How extensive is it?
- Do you provide on-going training for your staff?

Risk Management

- What measures do you have in place to keep my child safe?
- What are your discipline procedures with resistant students?
- How do you deal with risk-taking behaviors? (i.e. running away, self-harm, etc.)
- Will my child be exposed to other students that have more negative behaviors?
- What if my child becomes ill? Do you have a nurse on staff? Will you transport my child to medical facilities?

Questions for Specific Program Types

- Short Term Outdoor/Wilderness Program
 - How do you handle severe weather?
 - How do you handle emergencies?
 - What type of food do you provide?

- How do you manage personal hygiene?
- Long Term Residential Specific
 - Are you a locked facility?
 - Is there 24-hour awake staff supervision?
 - How often will I see my child?
 - Will I be able to speak with my child on the telephone?
 - Will I be able to write and receive letters?

Success Rate / Outcomes

- What is your success rate?
- Do you administer an outcome study? If so, what is that data?
- Do you have students return to your program?