



## Serenity House for Men

– Revised March 2007

**Serenity House is owned and operated by the ministry of “Resurrection Power”, a Christian 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The salaries and expenses for Serenity House staff members come primarily through contributions from local congregations, individuals, and grants. The cost of operating and maintaining the house is through the fees paid by the residents.**

### **Rules and Regulations 03/19/07**

- 1) Entrance to Serenity House requires the following criteria and commitments:
  - a) A commitment to remaining drug and alcohol free as job NUMBER ONE!
  - b) Attendance at a 12 Step meeting everyday for the first 90 days is mandatory.
    - After the first 90 days, at least five meetings per week are mandatory.
    - Get a sponsor and start actively working the steps within **30 days**.
  - c) Be able to produce a clean urine test before moving into the house.
  - d) Demonstrate a degree of stability in recovery and some ‘clean time’.
  - e) Persons with a dual diagnose are eligible for admission if mental health issues are stable and are being self-managed according to their health care provider’s treatment recommendations.
  - f) Must work, attend school, participate in outpatient treatment, or do community service for a TOTAL of 40 hrs per week within **21days** of residency. This requirement includes those residents on SS Disability.
  - g) Participation in a spiritual formation process that includes:
    - 1) Participation in weekly community meetings
    - 2) Participation in the house’s daily devotion/meditation group with fellow residents
    - 3) Participation in either:
      - A weekly Celebrate Recovery 12 Step Group, or
      - Attendance at a weekend worship service in a congregation
  - h) Must pay the initial program fee at the time of entrance into Serenity House unless arrangements have been approved by the Executive Director (ED)
  - i) Agree to abide by rules of the house and any instructions or direction given by ED or House Manger (HM)
  - j) All residents serve a 60-day probationary period. Residents showing a low commitment to recovery or behavior disruptive to community life, as determined by the ED, will be reviewed for possible “termination from residency” (TFR)
- 2) This is NOT a landlord/tenant agreement. You are agreeing to voluntarily enter the community and program of the Serenity House. Sharing residency in the house with other recovering people is part of that program. Immediate Termination from Residency (TFR) may be a sanction imposed for violation of the rules.

- 3) Fees (Subject to change) There is a \$350.00/month non-refundable program fee. No meals are included. A late charge of \$20.00 will be due for any late payments beyond the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month.
  - a) Residents have 60 days from admission to begin paying the full program fees from the previous month, by the fifth day of each month. However, during the first 60 days and for the remainder of their stay, residents must maintain a positive account balance at all times.
  - b) Thereafter, if paid in full, on time for the rest of your stay, after 6 months, your last month's program fee can be applied by "Resurrection Power" to the landlord or utility company for your new residence when you leave.
  - c) Failure to pay program fees in a timely manner will result in termination from residency.
- 4) Staffing: The house staff includes the Executive Director (ED) and a House Manager (HM). The HM is accountable to the ED and serves as an overseer of the house in the ED's absence. The HM seeks to serve the residents of the house by maintaining a safe recovery atmosphere and ensuring adherence to the rules. A more specific job description for the HM is posted in the house. The HM will be given the same respect and authority as the ED by the residents of the house.
- 5) **The HM may impose or additional rules, tasks, or restrictions in order to enhance the recovery process of the whole house or an individual within the house. Such changes shall be reported to the ED within 24 hours.**
- 6) **All decisions of the HM are final. Residents may appeal to the ED only if they feel a decision is a threat to their physical/mental/emotional health.**
- 7) Grounds for Termination From Residency include:
  - a) Without exception - Relapse documented by self acknowledgement or a positive urine test.
  - b) Refusal to provide urine for random drug screen testing within 1 hour of request while remaining within sight of ED or HM.
  - c) Refusal to allow immediate room inspection.
  - d) Low commitment to recovery.
  - e) Ongoing disruptive, disrespectful, or insubordinate behavior as determined by the ED or HM.
  - f) Being aware that another resident has relapsed and not notifying the HM or ED.
  - g) Theft, outbursts of rage, threats, or acts of violence whether on or off the property.
  - h) ED and HM reserve the right to evaluate the resident's behavior regarding a possible TFR.
- 8) In the case of a relapse or positive drug screen dipstick test:
  - a) Relapse is grounds for immediate TFR, with law enforcement if deemed necessary by the ED or HM. Terminated residents will have one (1) hour to remove their belongings from the house. Any belongings left past the one (1) hour period without permission of the ED or HM, will be donated to charity.
  - b) Terminated residents will not be permitted back on the property without permission from the HM. Other residents are not permitted to accept phone calls from, permit admittance into the home, or give anything in the home to the terminated resident. The terminated resident is to be directed to the HM.

- c) Residents terminated from residency for relapse may be **CONSIDERED** for re-admission after 2 weeks of every other day clean urine checks (paid by the terminated resident), receive an assessment by Washington Drug & Alcohol and follow their recommendations. A demonstration of willingness to take direction is key issue for re-admission.
  - d) A community vote may be taken prior to readmission in order to advise the HM.
- 9) Periodic drug screen tests and room search/inspections will be administered randomly or at the determination of the ED or HM. Other residents may anonymously request another resident to be drug tested. Residents will have 1 hour to give test sample upon request and must remain in sight of the house staff.
- 10) Residents violating any rule or regulation, unless otherwise noted, will receive:
- a) A verbal warning.
  - b) A written warning if the negative behavior is not corrected or is repeated.
  - c) Resident will be TFR for any further violations.
  - d) Fines of 5-10 dollars, or other sanctions may also be imposed for infractions or recurring negative behaviors. **Sanctions are at the discretion of the HM and may include, but are *not* limited to curfews, restrictions, reading/writing assignments, and additional chores. *All proceeds from fines will be invested back into the house.***
  - e) Violations will be re-visited 24 hours later and if it is uncorrected an additional \$5.00 fine or sanction will be levied and a written warning issued.
  - f) This will be repeated every 24 hours and if not corrected, a TFR may result.
  - g) All fines must be paid within 3 days or the fine will double.
- 11) There is a 10PM curfew for the residents first two weeks of residence, at that time residents will be evaluated by the HM to possibly extend curfew privilege to 12 Midnight.
- 12)** There will be no overnight leaves the first 30 days of residence. Overnight leaves must be submitted in writing and require 48 hours prior approval by the HM. Before leaving, residents must pay for the drug test kit that will be administered upon their return.
- 13) No weapons of any sort are permitted on the premises.
- 14) House meetings are mandatory, prior permission for absence is unlikely. There will be a \$5.00 fine for unexcused absence.
- 15) In consideration of others, residents will be responsible each day for showering and personal hygiene, making their beds, keeping their personal area clean, and for their daily assigned chores. If observed undone or unacceptable, sanctions may be imposed.
- 16) The phone will be used in a considerate and adult manner. Personal calls are limited to (1)15 minute call per hour unless related to employment or arranging treatment appointments. Residents are not to use Directory Assistance. Toll or long distance calls should be made using pre-paid calling cards.

- 17) No smoking or tobacco use inside the house. Residents may use tobacco outside. Butts are to be emptied into a coffee can placed on porches to avoid possible fire hazards. Chewing tobacco MUST be handled in a sanitary fashion.
- 18) No cooking is permitted past 10:00 PM without permission from the HM.
- 19) Guests are permitted between 10AM and 10PM. Only immediate family members and male clean & sober friends are permitted in the house with the permission of the HM.
- 20) Residents are not permitted to enter another resident's bedroom without the presence and permission of that resident.
- 21) No vitamins, herbs, minerals, supplements, or medication of any type are to be brought into the home without prior approval of ED. Prescriptions must be approved. Residents must provide documentation for any Emergency Room or Doctor visits where resident receives a pain medication or controlled substance.
- 22) Residents will have no contact with female residents at any recovery house or treatment center. Single residents are strongly discouraged from starting new relationships during early recovery. Stick with the men in recovery who can help you find a new way of life!
- 23) Residents of the Serenity House or the Serenity House are forbidden to be on one another's property, or to allow a resident of the opposite gender's recovery house to be on the property

**I have read and received a copy of these House rules. I understand, agree, and grant my permission by signing below, that violating these rules, as interpreted by the Executive Director or their agent, may cause my immediate termination from residency in the house and access to the property. I grant my permission to allow law enforcement officials to remove me from the property if necessary. My continued presence in the house constitutes agreement with any future written changes to these rules**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date