

Through the Gate's General Policies

We believe that God can do amazing work in your life to help you prepare for your transition back to society (Romans 8:37). We are assured that God wants to give you victory and help (Deuteronomy 20:4). We are confident that God's will for your life is that you would experience his overflowing joy and peace (Romans 15:13). We are sure that God can do this amazing work in your life if you are submissive to his Word (Luke 11:28).

We believe it is possible for you to be equipped with all that you need for life and Godliness by the time you graduate from the Through the Gate program. But we also know that changing can be hard work, and there are times that it may be very difficult. Because of this we want to make it as easy as possible for you to succeed by helping you to eliminate some of the potential distractions or hindrances that could get you off track. You will likely be working through some very difficult problems during your stay at Through the Gate, and we want to make it easy for you to focus on working through those issues.

The following is a list of general policies for those considering residency at Through the Gate. You will notice that the expectations set forth are very high standards. We are confident that living according to these standards during your stay at Through the Gate will help you focus and be productive. We are also confident that you can experience hope, peace, and overflowing joy as you understand God's love demonstrated through the staff who love you, a program set up to help you, and supporters all around you praying for your success. These are not a full list of rules; they are just the most important policies we feel that you need to make an informed decision about coming to Through the Gate.

Topic:	Explanation:
Activities	<p>Every resident participates in all scheduled activities. All activities are done as a group supervised by staff or volunteers.</p> <p><i>Why does this matter?</i></p> <p>Your months in Phase One are going to go by very quickly. Before you know it your time at Through the Gate will be done. We want you to make the most of every single opportunity you have, so we've set up a very comprehensive schedule that will give you the opportunity to learn new truths, begin setting up healthy habits, and give you lots of opportunities to make lasting friendships. Our daily activities will do all of this and more. We want you to be able to enjoy every single one of them!</p>
Appointments	<p>All doctor, dentist, etc. appointments should be scheduled through staff to ensure that you are missing as few scheduled activities as possible.</p> <p><i>Why does this matter?</i> We think you're going to enjoy the activities that have been organized for you, and we want to make sure you get to experience them fully. We also rely on lots of different people to help us get you back and forth to appointments, so we'll need to schedule your appointments at time that is conducive for that to happen.</p>

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<p>Authority: Submission</p>	<p>You are required to abide by all rules and requirements and directives of Through the Gate as long as they are not asking you to sin. You are also required to obey the directives from staff. The Through the Gate board of directors, officers and staff are in a position of authority over you. <i>Why does this matter?</i> See "Discipline" and "Dismissal" below. It is important for you to fully understand that you are under authority and for you to know who has authority over you. Those in authority make rules, requirements, or directives, designed to fulfill the mission of Through the Gate, and to assist you in achieving your own success in the program.</p>
<p>Check-In</p>	<p>The following will be required upon check in: all belongings will be searched and recorded, and your person will be searched and a drug screen will be performed. <i>Why does this matter?</i> Many residents will come to Through the Gate with different personal items than others come with, so we want to make sure that you and us have a record of what is yours, so that there is no confusion upon you leaving the program. You will fill out a residential inventory Log upon arrival, and you will be responsible for keeping your log accurate as you add items to your personal belongings. The drug screen is not a condition of you staying; it is a baseline to see how you improve at your time here. The property and body search is to protect other residents.</p>
<p>Check-Out</p>	<p>All resident belongings will be checked out when leaving the program. <i>Why does this matter?</i> We want you to leave Through the Gate set up for success. Hopefully we'll have lots of opportunities to bless you with good things while you're here, and we want to make sure none of your personal belongings are accidentally left behind.</p>
<p>Church Attendance</p>	<p>All residents are expected to attend all scheduled StoneWater Church services. <i>Why does this matter?</i> A relationship with God is the only thing that is really going to help you resolve the problems in your life. We believe the best place to learn about God and how to grow in Him is by faithfully attending a local church that you can become involved in. Church is the best place for you to be developing relationships with others who love God and are committed to your success.</p>
<p>Classes</p>	<p>All residents are expected to attend daily scheduled weekday classes. All required work to be completed to meet graduation requirements. <i>Why does this matter?</i> Our classes are a great way for you to learn new things about God and better ways of handling problems. We think you're going to love them because we've tried to make them fun, informative, and meaningful.</p>
<p>Counseling</p>	<p>All residents will attend weekly counseling sessions with counselors from a Through the Gate approved counselor. <i>Why does this matter?</i> Biblical counseling is the core of why the Through the Gate program will work for you. Biblical counseling gives you the opportunity to have some individualized time with staff as they help you learn how to make changes by applying God's Word. All of our staff are approved by Through the Gate Ministries because we want to make sure you are enjoying consistent high quality counseling while you are in residence at Through the Gate. Keep in mind that we have many volunteers at Through the Gate so counseling should be done with an approved counselor only.</p>

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Discipline	<p>Discipline will be given for disobedience and display of wrong attitudes. Discipline may include but is not limited to extra chores, restrictions from privileges, or even dismissal from the program.</p> <p><i>Why does this matter?</i> It's very important to have a right view of authority because learning to be submissive to authority is something every human has to deal with. We have found that the ladies who are willing to work on this issue while they are at Through the Gate usually leave as much greater successes than those who do not. The Bible promises that if you choose to live in disobedience you will have a hard life. We want your life to be successful, not difficult.</p>
Dismissal	<p>Staff will work with residents who have made wrong choices in an effort to help them change, but there may be times when the offense is great enough that a resident will be asked to leave the program until she is ready to be serious about the program. Discipline and Dismissal will be determined by the Executive Director and or the Board of Directors.</p> <p><i>Why does this matter?</i> Everyone makes mistakes. Everyone sins and needs to practice repentance and seek forgiveness. If you make an occasional mistake and are truly repentant about wrong choices, we definitely want to help you, but we do know there may be times that young ladies decide to make rebellious choices. Unfortunately, there may be times that a resident will need to be dismissed from the program for certain choices like using drugs, physically hurting someone else, etc.</p>
Exercise and Fitness	<p>Residents may participate in daily exercise during their free time and as equipment is available.</p> <p><i>Why does this matter?</i> Because we understand from the Bible that God wants us to take good care of the bodies He has given.</p>
Graduation	<p>We encourage all residents to complete the program in such a way that we can celebrate their graduation with them.</p> <p><i>Why does this matter?</i> Graduation from the Through the Gate program is individualized based on the amount of time staff feels is necessary for you to deal with problems, change habits, and begin to handle life productively. You'll probably end up being in the program approximately 10-14 months. We'll be working hard to make sure you're ready to begin life on your own as a Godly individual.</p>
Mail	<p>All incoming and outgoing mail may be opened / inspected by staff. Inappropriate correspondence will be denied. This includes any inappropriate letters from boyfriends, and correspondence with any inappropriate content.</p> <p><i>Why does this matter?</i> We want you to be able to focus on your relationship with Jesus Christ and to work on your studies without undo distractions. Mail is a great way to communicate, and we want to make sure you enjoy that opportunity as much as possible to the Glory of God.</p>
Medications	<p>All medications are kept in a locked medicine cabinet and dispensed only by staff or volunteers. A medication log is to be kept for each medicine given to a resident, and will to be signed by staff and initialed by resident.</p> <p><i>Why does this matter?</i> We want to help you stay healthy while you are at Through the Gate. We also want to make sure that there is no temptation to take more or less medication than has been prescribed by your doctor. We believe that caring for your body is an important aspect of stewardship so we want to help you learn how to make smart choices to get and stay healthy.</p>

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Money	<p>All money is to be stored in a lock safe by staff, and residents will not have access to their money without permission from staff. Friends and family members may deposit money into resident's accounts with approval of staff. Additional freedom with money will be according to the level of responsibility you have obtained</p> <p><i>Why does this matter?</i> We want to eliminate the temptation of theft and problems in the house if that was to occur, we also want to help you learn how to manage your money well.</p>
Music/ Entertainment	<p>All music/entertainment (Movies) need to be approved by Director. (Music will be Christian only)</p> <p><i>Why does this matter?</i> We want to help you to avoid any form of entertainment that may cause you to stumble in your walk with Christ. There may also be fellow residents that struggle with particular sins that may be affected negatively by something that is allowed, thus all forms of entertainment must be approved.</p>
Physical Care	<p>Residents are expected to eat properly, bathe according to the shower schedule, exercise faithfully, and take care of their bodies while living at Through the Gate.</p> <p><i>Why does this matter?</i> People who take good care of their bodies are often more likely to work hard on their goals while they are at Through the Gate. We want you to succeed!</p>
Searches	<p>Searching of your belongings or your person will be performed as deemed necessary. All searches of your person will be done with female staff only.</p> <p><i>Why does this matter?</i> We have a very strict drug policy for your good and the safety of others, so when deemed necessary we will do what we need to protect you and the other residents.</p>
Sexual Contact	<p>There will be no sexual activity, contact, or gesturing on Through the Gate premises.</p> <p><i>Why does this matter?</i> Because Through the Gate is a place of business and these activities have no place on our premises. Any sexual contact between residents and or staff could be means for dismissal.</p>
Smoking	<p>Smoking is never permitted at Through the Gate.</p> <p><i>Why does this matter?</i> Because we love you.</p>
Telephone Calls	<p>Residents may call home to speak with family members or receive calls from home according to the level of responsibility they have obtained. See Phone privilege rules upon arrival.</p> <p><i>Why does this matter?</i> We want to make sure you stay connected with your family so we've set some rules that will help you to do this in a God honoring way.</p>
Visitors	<p>Approved visitors, may be welcome, after the resident's initial 30 days and with the residents counselors approval or the approval of a Director. All visitations may be monitored. See visitation policy upon arrival.</p> <p><i>Why does this matter?</i> We care about your safety, so all visitations need to be preapproved and monitored as necessary for your safety.</p>
Weapons	<p>Residents will never be permitted to possess weapons on the Through the Gate property. Residents refusing to comply will be dismissed from the program.</p> <p><i>Why does this matter?</i> We want you to be safe. There will never be a reason that you need to have a weapon at Through the Gate.</p>