

# Through The Gate's General Policies

(Revised April 25 2022)

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 yielding 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, 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. You will notice that the expectations set forth are very high standards. We are confident that living according to these standards during your stay 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. **All House Rules and General Policies may be adapted at any time to better suit the needs of individuals or the household, therefore by applying to Through The Gate you are agreeing to comply with any potential future changes.**

PLEASE VISIT THE *FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS* ON OUR WEBSITE, FOUND ON THE 'ABOUT' TAB. UPON REVIEW, UNDERSTAND THAT:

- **THIS IS A TOBACCO FREE CAMPUS**
- **YOU WILL NOT HAVE YOUR PHONE FOR AT LEAST 90 DAYS**
- **RESIDENTS MAY NOT HAVE A JOB WHILE IN RESIDENCY AT THROUGH THE GATE**
- **ALL RESIDENTS WORK DAILY WITHOUT COMPENSATION:  
SERVING, VOLUNTEERING, AND DOING CHORES**

In addition to the previously mentioned, you are expected to completely read and understand the following policies set in place for residency at Through The Gate....

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Topic:	Explanation:
Activities	<p><b>Every resident participates in all scheduled activities. All activities are done as a group supervised by staff, SLT, or volunteers.</b></p> <p><i>Why does this matter?</i> Your time here will 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><b>All necessary appointments are scheduled through staff for Tuesday mornings from 8am-12pm. No major surgeries, cosmetic procedures, or procedures that will affect your ability to participate in the program are permitted, apart from saving your life. <i>Why does this matter?</i></b> 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 will do our best to acquire transportation from our volunteers, but if none are available you may have to reschedule. Under rare exceptions, family or authority figures may be approved to offer you transportation. You can request an appointment slip to fill out completely and turn in for approval.</p>

Honoring the Rules	<p><b>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, this means you are to follow the directives from your officials: staff, SLT, and volunteers. <i>Why does this matter?</i></b> See "Consequences" and "Dismissal" below. It is important for you to fully understand that you are in a controlled environment and to honor your officials. These officials make the rules, requirements, and directives that are designed to fulfill the mission of Through The Gate, and to assist you in achieving your own success in the program.</p>
Check-In	<p><b>The following will be required upon check in: all belongings will be searched and recorded, your person will be searched, and a drug screen will be performed. We have limited space in the bedroom so you will be limited on what you can bring. <i>Why does this matter?</i></b> Everyone arrives with different personal items, so we want to make sure that you and we have a record of what is yours so that there is no confusion upon you leaving the program. You will fill out and sign a residential inventory Log upon arrival. You will be responsible for keeping your log accurate as you add items to your personal belongings. The initial drug screen results do not determine your enrollment; it is a baseline to monitor your improvement and physical needs.</p>
Church Attendance	<p><b>All residents are expected to attend all scheduled StoneWater Church services. <i>Why does this matter?</i></b> 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>

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Classes	<p><b>All residents are expected to attend daily scheduled weekday classes. All required work to be completed to meet graduation requirements.</b></p> <p><b><i>Why does this matter?</i></b> 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>
Counseling	<p><b>All residents will attend counseling sessions with a Through The Gate appointed counselor. <i>Why does this matter?</i></b> Biblical counseling is the core of why the Through The Gate program will work for you. These weekly sessions offer individualized time with one of our qualified counselors, as they help you learn how to make changes by applying God's Word. Counseling times may vary due to unforeseen schedule changes.</p>
Consequences	<p><b>Consequences will result when participants align themselves with wrong or harmful attitudes or actions. These results may include but are not limited to extra chores, restrictions from privileges, loss of visitations, or even dismissal from the program. <i>Why does this matter?</i></b> It's very important to have a right view of obedience because following rules is something every human must respond to. 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 rebellion, you will have a hard life. We want your life to be successful and enjoyable, not difficult!</p>
Dismissal	<p><b>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 growing. Consequences and Dismissal will be determined by TTG Leadership. <i>Why does this matter?</i></b> 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 want to help you! But we do know there may be times that residents 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. This is not all encompassing.</p>
Exercise and Fitness	<p><b>Residents must participate in scheduled walks and may exercise during their free time using available equipment. <i>Why does this matter?</i></b> Because we understand from the Bible that God wants us to take good care of the bodies He has given.</p>
Graduation	<p><b>We encourage all residents to complete the program in such a way that we can celebrate their graduation with them. <i>Why does this matter?</i></b> Graduation from the Through the Gate program is 8months. We'll be working hard to make sure you're ready to begin life on your own as a Godly individual.</p>

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Mail	<p><b>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.</b></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. All outgoing mail must be placed unsealed into the mail bin. Sending mail by other means may result in consequences. Excessive online shopping will be halted, and packages should be shipped using UPS or FedEx to our physical mailing address.</p>
Medications	<p><b>All medications are kept in a locked medicine cabinet and dispensed only by staff, SLT, or volunteers. A medication log kept for each medicine will be signed and initialed by TTG leadership. This includes over the counter medications such as aspirin, ibuprofen etc. Why does this matter?</b> We want to help everyone stay healthy. We also want to make sure that there is no temptation for you to take more or less medication than has been prescribed by your doctor. Caring for your body is an important aspect of stewardship.</p>
Money	<p><b>All money can be stored in a locked safe by staff, or the resident can choose to keep their money with them, but we are not responsible for your money. If your money is locked up, it will be recorded and signed by you and staff.</b></p> <p><i>Why does this matter?</i> We want to eliminate the temptation of theft and problems in the house, as well as help you learn how to manage your money well.</p>
Music/ Entertainment	<p><b>All music/entertainment (Movies) need to be approved by TTG Staff. (Music will be Christian only) Why does this matter?</b> 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 or trauma that may be affected negatively by something that is allowed, thus all forms of entertainment must be approved.</p>
Physical Care	<p><b>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.</b></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><b>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.</b></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>

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Sexual Contact	<b>There will be no sexual activity, sexual contact, bed sharing, or gesturing on Through The Gate premises. <i>Why does this matter?</i></b> Because Through The Gate is a place of business and these activities have no place on our premises. We want everyone to be able to focus on their studies, feel safe, protected, and behave in a way that is pleasing to God. Any violation of this policy is grounds for dismissal.
Smoking/Tobacco	<b>Through The Gate is a tobacco, Vape free campus. <i>Why does this matter?</i></b> Because we love you. Residents are welcome to bring their own nicotine gum or patches but will be weaned off them accordingly.
Cell Phone Calls	<b>Residents are not permitted to use any cell phone for their 90 day Black Out phase, and after that a staff evaluation of their progress will be the determining factor. <i>Why does this matter?</i></b> We want to help you focus, become invested in your studies, build new relationships, and start reshaping your desires before being bombarded with worldly influences of entertainment and people. It's a little time off the grid to re-align your spirit!
House Phone Calls	<b>After 2 weeks, participants may be added to the House Phone schedule where they may speak with family, authority figures, or otherwise approved individuals twice a week for 20 minutes.</b> 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. Phone privileges may be revoked for inappropriate exchanges, including but not limited to vulgar speech, dishonoring parents, slander, scheming or isolation.
Visitations	<b>The first 90 days is a Black Out phase where phone use and visitations are limited to children and necessary authority figures. After 90 days, additional freedoms may be given, such as weekend/visitor passes and mentorship. Approved contacts are limited. <i>Why does this matter?</i></b> We want you to have the BEST chance at success, and being able to focus without undue distractions is a part of that.
Weapons	<b>Residents will never be permitted to possess weapons on the Through The Gate property. Residents refusing to comply will be dismissed from the program. <i>Why does this matter?</i></b> We want you to be safe. There will never be a reason that you need to have a weapon at Through The Gate.
Dress Code	<b>Our dress code policies are modest and generally casual. Revealing clothing including short-shorts, miniskirts, halter tops, tube tops, or anything else deemed inappropriate by staff will be confiscated and returned upon completion or dismissal from the program. <i>Why does this matter?</i></b> One of our goals at Through The Gate is to help you focus on your inward being, to find your worth in Christ and not appearances, outward beauty, or attention from others.

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Relationships	<p><b>We do not recommend that residents enter into intimate relationships with anyone while they are in the program. Relationships that are deemed unhealthy, toxic, abusive, obsessive, or distracting will not be condoned. This means that that individual will not be approved for contact during your time at Through The Gate. Relationships between residents are also not permitted and will result in consequences. <i>Why this matters?</i></b> We want you to be safe and goal oriented while you are here. If there are things distracting you from making the most of this opportunity we will intervene out of love.</p>
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