

Angela House

INTRODUCTION

Angela House is a residential facility for women who have recently been released from prison. The house is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Angela House was established in July 2001, and is a program located in the Catholic Archdiocese of Galveston/Houston.

- Women who reside at Angela House will be provided with their basic needs of food and shelter. Some clothing will also be provided.
- A maximum of 16 women will reside at Angela House.
- Children will not live at Angela House. However, an important part of each resident's case management will be reuniting mothers with their child/children.
- A full array of counseling services and referral sources will be provided for program participants.

Angela House Services May Include:

- Alcohol and drug assessment that may result in referral to a community based inpatient/outpatient program
- Mental health evaluation may result in referral to a mental health facility
- On site pre-employment/employment sessions and referral for job training and employment
- Individual and group counseling
- Parent education and child development classes
- Opportunities for residents to discuss spiritual concerns related to their sense of purpose and wellbeing, as well as those related to expressions of specific religious beliefs
- Workshops that address a variety of life skill issues: self-esteem; assessment of personal strengths and weaknesses; relationships; personal and family budgeting; housing, use of leisure time
- Educational opportunities including tutoring in Math and Language Arts, basic computer skills, referrals to obtain a G.E.D. and vocational programs

The average length of stay at Angela House will be 180 days with the possibility of extensions when necessary.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Angela House is: "To successfully transition women into society after incarceration."

PHILOSOPHY

Angela House provides a life enriching, residential program to serve adult women who voluntarily enter after their release from prison. Residents receive emotional and spiritual support as well as professional counseling as they are encouraged to set realistic and attainable goals for the future, and to make informed choices that will:

- Enhance and improve self esteem
- Build self-determination skills
- Develop personal growth initiatives and
- Empower them to lead lives with dignity in their community and with their families.

Angela House has been established to serve women recently released from prison that are homeless or at risk of being homeless. Angela House is a residential setting that will provide for the basic needs of residents and offer a wide range of counseling and referral services.

Empowerment of residents is one of the primary goals of Angela House.

Empowerment is accomplished by assisting each resident in identifying her strengths, setting her own goals, and making constructive changes in her life.

Employment readiness, educational opportunities and actual job development are an integral part of assisting Angela House residents in becoming self-sufficient individuals.

Family reunification, substance abuse counseling, individual, group and family counseling also serve to enhance each resident's move toward empowerment and self-sufficiency.

At Angela House we hope to establish a community of women who respect themselves and each other, and who are committed to working for their own empowerment as well as the empowerment of their families and each other.

The administration and support staff will work hand-in-hand with the residents in creating a communal atmosphere in which each individual feels respected and valued.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Orientation: Each woman who enters the Angela House program will meet individually with the Program Director or Program Coordinator in order to develop a plan specifically geared to meet her needs. Short and long-term goals will be set; referrals to community based agencies established and future counseling sessions will be arranged.

During the first 60 days at Angela House residents will complete an orientation process that will familiarize her with all aspects of the Angela House program and living arrangements. Residents will not leave Angela House during the orientation period unless accompanied by staff or other residents

During the first sixty (60) days at Angela House each woman will assess her personal needs and barriers in order to assist her in becoming and remaining self sufficient, personally and financially responsible for herself and her family. Employment is not recommended during this time. However, as residents accomplish goals they have set for themselves, this policy may be renegotiated.

PREGNANCY: If a woman becomes pregnant during her stay at Angela House, efforts will be made to find her housing and referrals to appropriate social service agencies. Since Angela House cannot accommodate children, the woman will be dismissed from the program.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE: Women who have been assessed to have substance abuse issues are required to attend a minimum of 3 NA/AA/CA meeting per week (group therapy, individual therapy, life skills, relapse prevention, and wellness).

APPOINTMENTS: Residents are expected to keep all appointments with agencies that have been designated to be of assistance to her.

IN-HOUSE MEETINGS & PROGRAMS: Residents are expected to attend regularly scheduled house meetings and other in-house scheduled sessions.

SCHEDULES: The Case Manager will work with women who are employed to coordinate their employment and program schedules.

RESIDENT SAVINGS PLAN: Angela House residents are expected to participate in the Resident Savings Plan. This plan is designed to assist residents to manage their income as an incentive to save money for future housing and other necessities, and to keep money safe until residents move on to independent living. Residents are expected to save 75% of any income received while at Angela House.

HOUSE GUIDELINES

Angela House is intended to be a place where each woman resident can be in a safe, secure homelike atmosphere where she is respected and in turn respects the other members of the household. The following guidelines have been established for the residents of Angela House.

1. There will be no smoking in the house or the courtyard. Smoking is allowed in the designated area, during designated smoking times.
2. Curfew is 10PM from Sunday through Thursday. Friday and Saturday curfew is 12 midnight. Two violations of curfew are basis for dismissal from the program.
3. No violence or threat of violence, either physical or verbal is allowed. This includes name calling, profanity, or saying things with the intent to control or hurt another person.
4. Weekend and overnight passes must be arranged with the Case Manager in advance.
5. Residents may entertain visitors at Angela House at the time and places designated. Residents will be encouraged and assisted in arranging for social and recreational activities for themselves and their children. Visiting hours are on Saturdays and Sundays. Times vary according to scheduled weekend activities.
6. No TV is allowed during program hours. Radio playing that does not disturb others is allowed. TV times are from 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM daily unless other scheduled events or classes are taking place.
7. The office staff make room assignments. Angela House can accommodate sixteen women. New arrivals may have to share a room with one other person. As residents progress, they may move to a private room. Private room assignments are decided by staff during case management meetings.
8. Residents should be up and dressed by 7:30 am on weekdays and 8:00 am on weekends. Residents are to be appropriately dressed at all times and in all areas of the house.
9. Kitchen/Laundry are as follows:
Monday through Friday Breakfast may be prepared 6:30 am – 7:45 am
Lunch schedule is determined on a daily basis according to scheduled classes.
Dinner begins by 4 pm.
Weekends: food is available for all three meals on weekends; residents are responsible for the preparation of meals and clean up afterwards.
The kitchen is closed at 8:00 pm every night.
The washer and dryer are to be used according to posted schedule.
NO BLEACH IS USED AT ANYTIME IN THE WASHING MACHINE.
10. Angela House telephones may only be used with permission of the administrative staff. **NO CALLS TO INFORMATION ARE TO BE MADE FROM ANY PHONE.** Any cell phones are to be turned in daily. No cell phones are permitted while riding in Angela House vehicles.
11. Residents will be asked to sign in and sign out when they leave house for appointments, employment, or social activities. The weekly planner is to be completed and turned in to Administrative Staff by Friday at noon for the coming week.
12. Angela House will provide metro cards to residents until they are employed or are receiving assistance to pay for their own transportation needs. Residents are expected to repay Angela House for the bus fare used before they were employed or began receiving assistance.
13. Residents are responsible for providing the postage necessary for all personal items to be mailed.
14. Medications: A staff member will observe and record prescriptions of all medications for all the residents.

ANGELA HOUSE PROGRAM RULES

The Angela House Program rules were created to provide you with some of the guidance for sharing life here at Angela House.

The rules are not intended to take away your right to determine how to act in a given situation. They are, however, intended to help you reintegrate into society. The rules are reflective, in part, of the community's desire for its members to demonstrate socially, legally and morally acceptable behavior. The Program Rules are as follows:

- No narcotics or alcohol
- No weapons
- No sex
- No violence-either physical or verbal
- No stealing
- No gambling or loaning of money

Failure to observe any of the Program Rules could result in immediate dismissal from Angela House.

ANGELA HOUSE RESIDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Every Angela House resident is expected to share in the up-keep of the House. This includes:

- Assisting with the housekeeping of the communal living areas, living room, dining room, laundry, etc.
- Preparation of meals.
- Maintaining her own room in good order and assuming responsibility for her own personal belongings.
- Doing her personal laundry.
- Situations that might be detrimental or toxic to the community will be brought to the attention of the administration and discussed in community meetings.