

## **OXFORD HOUSE WOMEN/CHILDREN GUIDELINES**

The following guidelines have been adopted by the Oxford Houses of Washington and are also used throughout the country.

### **PHYSICAL ASPECTS**

1. The house should not be located on a major arterial or heavily trafficked area
2. The house should have a minimum of 2600 square feet
3. An 8 or 9 person house works best (not including children) and should have at least 5 to 6 bedrooms, two and ½ baths, two common areas, separate dining area, and enclosed outside play area, an area inside for play and toys, and adequate kitchen (it works best if there are 2 kitchen areas) and laundry room.
4. Three bedrooms should be large enough to include a junior bed or crib and an extra dresser for a mother and child. In some cases where there is an extra large room we have utilized bunk beds or 2 cribs for children (age and sex are a determining factor) and two moms.
5. At least one bathroom should have a tub shower combination.
6. The kitchen must have a dishwasher for sanitary purposes, at least two refrigerators, and ample cupboard space.
7. Are there ample outlets, telephone and cable jacks? This can be costly to install
8. The house should have storage space, ample parking, easy access to bus service and a relatively low maintenance yard.
9. Be sure to check for safety hazards; i.e., stairs, windows with locks, safe deck and fencing. Pools, ponds and hot tubs can be a hazard
10. The house should be in good repair, clean and all electrical, plumbing and heating should be safe and working properly.

### **BASIC GUIDELINES**

1. \*The parent must have a minimum of 3 months sobriety before bringing a child into the home. Either prior clean time or living in the House
  - a. It works well for pregnant women that can establish themselves in a house before delivering their baby.
2. \* Depending on the size of the house no more than 4 children should live in the home. Some smaller house may only have two. There are non- parenting women in the house and their recovery needs to be protected too.
3. \*A suggested \$50 equal share of expenses should be paid per child
4. \*No child will be accepted over the age of 8
5. \*A parent may not have more than 2 children living in the home
6. \*A parent must complete a parenting class within 3 months of residency
7. \*No “significant other” overnight guests or sex in the house
8. \*The parent is responsible for their own child at all times
  - a. Children must eat at the dining table

- b. It is the parents responsibility to discipline child in as appropriate manner. Other parents do not discipline a child unless they are in danger.
  - c. No corporal punishment, hitting, yelling, swearing or calling a child an inappropriate names in not acceptable
  - d. Parent should not nap or sleep while the child is awake. (This includes early mornings)
  - e. If a parent cannot quiet a disruptive child with in 10 minutes, the child and parent should remove themselves from the common room.
- 9. Children should be respected as house member and be included in any decisions that may affect their living situation
- 10. Children must respect others' rooms and boundaries
- 11. All members including children must respect quiet times
- 12. Some members may share babysitting time, but make sure it is agreeable to all parties, and that the babysitting person accepts the responsibility and knows her expectations.
- 13. It is acceptable and encouraged to have case workers visit and assist the individual parent
- 14. Women that do not have their children living with them may have their children visit overnight, but times, number of children and length of stay should be voted on by the house.

\* Indicates that these are rules for all women and children's houses