

RAP HOUSE EXPECTATIONS:

In addition to house specific “Rights & Responsibilities” that individual houses may initiate, RAP, as an organization, has expectations that every member of a house must live up to.

1. Each House must be democratically self-run.

Everyone has an equal voice and vote. This is done in mandatory weekly meetings. There are no bosses in the house. Everyone has a voice and should always be given the respect having their views and opinions heard.

Decisions regarding the house are made in the mandatory weekly house meeting and agreed upon with a majority vote. A majority vote requires half the house members plus one. For example:

- 6 total members, 4 votes are required
- 7 total members, 4 votes are required
- 8 total members, 5 votes are required
- 9 total members, 5 votes are required
- 10 total members, 6 votes are required
- 11 total members, 6 votes are required
- 12 total members, 7 votes are required

For expelling a member, the same majority is required.

2. Each House must be financially self-supporting

All members pay their equal share (EES) on time in order for the house, as a whole, to meet its financial obligations.

- This equal share of expenses (EES) is due in advance on the 25th day of each month.
- Failure to pay this amount before the 5th will result in a late fee.
- If you have not paid your EES by the 8th day of the following month (i.e. if the rent is due on June 25th, if you haven't paid by July 8th) or signed a financial contract with the house, you will be served with a **72 hour notice** to pay by the time stated on the 72 hour notice or you will be expelled, jeopardizing your rental history.

A bed can only be held for a prospective member for 10 days and only if the non-refundable arrival deposit of \$125 is paid.

A new member cannot move in their things until the contract is signed and payment is made. A letter issued by a reputable non-profit promising payment will suffice.

3. All houses are alcohol and drug free.

Violations of this rule in or out of the house will result in some form of house action up to and including a 14-30 day notice of eviction.

- UA's (urine analysis) may be requested by any two members of the house if there is suspected unauthorized drug or alcohol use.
- A refusal to take a UA is considered a dirty UA and will be treated accordingly. A tampered UA is also considered a dirty UA and will be treated accordingly. This is also true of guests in the house.
- If you are prescribed a narcotic or other medication, the house must be notified and shown a copy of the prescription.
- All prescription medications must be kept in a safe place in your room (preferably a lock box.)
- There is absolutely no sharing of medications.

4. Accountability

Life in a RAP house is about accountability and responsibility, not rules. Houses may write their own "Rights and Responsibilities" within the framework of the RAP House Expectations. Most of our members come from abusive environments with many, many rules. Given the chance, they will re-create the environment they know and understand – a rule based environment. We want them to grow past that and internalize a sense of responsibility. We achieve this goal by emphasizing and insisting on accountability.

5. Making Rules

This means that it is very important that any "rules" that are written are enforced impartially and uniformly (i.e. rules apply to adults as well as children.)

- All "rules" must be voted on at the house weekly meeting and must receive a majority vote.
- They must be noted in the minutes of the meeting.
- The Secretary must then enter them in the House "Rights and Responsibilities" document. They do not come into effect until they are part of that document.
- The Rights and Responsibilities must be read aloud at the first House meeting of every month by the President of the House.
- See "House Rules and Responsibilities" section for more information.

6. Safety

House members must be mindful of the safety of others in the house. That includes:

- In houses designated as domestic violence survivor houses, members must be careful about disclosing the address of the houses.
- In houses designated as domestic violence survivor houses, there are no overnight guests except the children of the house members. The prohibition of overnight guests includes children of house members who are 18 years or over.
- All house guests must be cleared by the other house members.
- In all houses, the safety of children is critically important. While each parent has the right to parent in their own style, the house must be committed to the safety of its children. That includes calling the Department of Human Services (DHS) or Children's Services if a child is being abused.
- There is to be no violent behavior in the houses. Violent behavior includes name calling, threats and screaming.
- There are no firearms, ammunition or weapons of any kind allowed in any of the houses.

7. Fire Safety

Fire safety is very important. There must be working fire extinguishers on each floor and in the kitchen. There must be working smoke detectors. Each house must have an evacuation plan posted on the bulletin board. There are required fire drills twice a year, in January and June. Fire safety procedures must be reviewed with all new members. There may be no open flames in the house, such as candles, fires or incense. There also may be no heaters in the rooms.

8. Diversity

We live in diverse households in a diverse community. Laws and housing regulations regarding non-discrimination will be observed. Disrespect of members based on a member's identification with a particular protected class will give rise to a behavioral contract and may result in a thirty day notice of eviction.

Miscellaneous

9. Each House is committed to empowering its members to become survivors: through a healing plan, counseling, groups, or service work (volunteerism). Members must agree to attend at least 2 meetings a week. All members are encouraged to attend Al-Anon meetings.
10. There is **NO SMOKING** in any of the houses. Smoking is confined to the outdoors. Each house should have a designated smoking area with available fire proof containers for cigarette butts.

11. Other house members are not babysitters. DHS will not allow a child under 12 in their care to be left with someone who is not DHS certified. Parents are responsible for monitoring their own children.
12. The Federal Fair Housing Act (see Section VI b) says that house rules must be obeyed by everyone in the house, no matter what age. Therefore, if there is a house rule that children cannot play in the street, neither can the adults. This is also true of bedtimes. A parent can have a bedtime for a child but a house cannot specify a bedtime for all children.
13. These are working houses. Members are expected to be working, in school, seeking employment or volunteering. The house may ask for proof of job seeking or volunteer work.
14. Each member should write out a list of personal property when they arrive. There should also be a list of house property in the Housing Services binder. When a member leaves, the house has the responsibility to make sure that the member takes only their personal property and not the property of the house. This is the responsibility of the Housing Services Representative. Personal property should not be used in common areas. All personal property must be stored in your own room. Some houses have a rule that any appliances, furniture or other general use items become the property of the house if they are kept in the common areas of the house. This is to prevent the house from being empty because the house has been using a member's personal property for general use (for example, the living room couch.)

I certify that I have read the RAP Expectations.

Signature

Date

Witness Signature

Date