

Chosen Family Hosting | Shared Expectations Agreement

(Youth) _____ and (host) _____

are creating this agreement about their hosting arrangement. By deciding together how they would like the arrangement to work, discussing potential areas of conflict in advance, and being open to outside support, they can help the arrangement go more smoothly!

YOUTH QUESTIONS

What do I bring to the household? (Things I'm good at, my shining personal qualities....)

Challenges in my life I want to be honest about: (Addiction, mental-health issues, legal-system involvement....)

Who are other people who support me? (Extended family members, friends, counselors....)

What goals will I pursue while I'm staying with my host? (School, job, alcohol or drug treatment....)

What can I provide for myself? (Food, bus pass, earnings from my job....)

What might I need help with? (Rides to school or work, learning to cook, applying to college....)

If I'm covered by health insurance, please show host insurance card, and list provider and insurance number. If I'm not covered, what is my plan for obtaining health insurance?

In a serious emergency, please contact:

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HOST QUESTIONS

Why am I choosing to host the youth? (My relationship with the youth, their special qualities, my values and past experiences....)

What can I offer the youth? (A couch to sleep on, use of a bicycle, a listening ear....)

Other people who support me: (Friends, family, faith community members....)

The values in our house: (Go to school or work, get help for addiction/mental health issues, obey laws....)

How our house runs: (Alcohol use, computer or phone access, chores, curfew, guests, keys, pets, etc.)

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YOUTH & HOST QUESTIONS

We are committed to this hosting arrangement until....

(If we are unsure, on what date will we check back in about the length of our commitment?)

How would we like to set up this hosting arrangement?

The pros and cons of a youth renting from the host or being their guest vary from state to state. Whether the host is a renter or a homeowner may also be a factor. In general, being a guest is a more flexible, but less stable arrangement. Renting from the host can give the youth a permanent address and help the youth build a rental history. It can also give the youth rights, such as a month's notice for ending the arrangement.

To understand the range of full considerations in one state, please see CloseKnit's: "Renter or Host? Minnesota Legal Guide—Renter Hosts" and "Renter or Host? Minnesota Legal Guide—Homeowner Hosts."

Will the youth be: A guest? A renter If a renter, rent is \$_____ per week month

How can we help the house run smoothly? (House meetings, shared meals or activities....)

Where will we get help if conflict arises? (Counselor, friend, community mediation program....)

SPECIAL SITUATIONS

If the youth is a minor...

- ***Do the youth's parents know where the youth is staying?***
If the youth is uncomfortable communicating directly with their parents, they can relay a message through the National Runaway Safeline (1-800-RUNAWAY).
- ***Has or will the youth receive help from a direct-service provider?***
If so, staff who know that a minor youth is away from home must notify child protection services.
- ***Did the youth run away from foster care?***
The youth or host should immediately notify the foster care caseworker.

The options available for navigating a relationship between a minor youth and a host can vary by state.

To understand the range of considerations in one state, please see CloseKnit's:

"Options for Chosen Family Hosting Arrangements with Minor Youth—Minnesota Legal Guide."

If the youth is parenting...

- ***What parenting support does the youth need? What support does the youth's child(ren) need?***

If the host is a renter...

- ***Does the property owner know the youth is staying in the unit?***

Whether a youth can stay openly with a host who rents involves many factors that can vary by state.

For a guide to the issues in one state, see CloseKnit's "*Continue Under the Radar or Come Above Board? Minnesota Legal Guide.*"

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HOST PLEDGE:

- I will provide a home free from violence. We will talk through conflicts with respect.
- I will provide a home that respects sexual boundaries, and the sexual orientation and gender identity/expression of the youth. There will be no sexual contact between me and the youth. No one in my home will offer payment for sex or expect favors in exchange for sex.
- Add your own pledge about drug and alcohol use, and any other commitments you'd like to make!

Host "lines in the sand" (Situations that would cause you to consider discontinuing the hosting arrangement.)

Host name (print) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

YOUTH PLEDGE:

- I commit to talking through conflicts with respect.
- I commit to respecting physical and sexual boundaries.
- Add your own pledge about drug and alcohol use, and any other commitments you'd like to make!

Youth "lines in the sand" (Situations that you would refuse to accept in a healthy hosting arrangement.)

Youth name (print) _____

Signature _____

Date _____