

# Host Family Host Family

A host family is defined as one of the families within the Cornerstone Recovery Group that has accepted a teen into their home for a brief period of time. The reasons for this can vary: (1) the teen is put out of their own home for not working the program to the satisfaction of the counselor, (2) the teen has chosen to step outside the boundaries or the shots the parents have established for their home, (3) the teen has chosen to be dishonest or is utilizing other self destructive behaviors, (4) their home environment is temporarily an unhealthy place for them to be, (5) the teen has relapsed, (6) the teen needs in-depth help from a “winner” in learning to work the program. Cornerstone is NOT Foster Care, and the information below is to be used as a guideline.

Below is a list of questions the host family should know **prior** to making a commitment of being a host family. Also, the “kid” should be doing most of the talking!

1. Why is the kid there? Are they sincere in what they are saying?
2. What do they need to do in order to get back to their own home?
3. What do they need to do in order to “work their program”? Who is their Winners List? What is their meeting schedule? Look for the details!
4. How long do they need to stay?
5. Review your own house shots and be sure they are adequate.
6. Talk to the other family! Why is the kid out?
7. Is your kid a winner? Do you have shots that you are enforcing?

## **KEEP IN MIND THE FOLLOWING**

- ✓ Your visitor should be taking an active role in getting back home. **YOUR** teen should be taking the majority of the responsibility at home with your visitor. The visiting teen is **not** at your home on vacation.
- ✓ It is **not** the responsibility of the Host Family to financially fund this visit. The other family should be supplying the cost of the basic needs...food, etc., as well as rules on the spending money.
- ✓ Are there any medications the visiting teen is on? What are they for? What special instructions should the Host Family know about?
- ✓ TRANSPORTATION is a big issue. It is **not** the Host Family’s responsibility to transport the visiting teen, but it is the responsibility of your visiting teen and your teen to plan for group meetings, Satellite functions, AA meetings, etc.
- ✓ Some parents establish a Family Day. Talk to the counselor and the other family.
- ✓ **If in doubt, ask the counselor!**

*It is normal to wonder if you’re “ready to be a host family”. Talk to your sponsor, address it in Climbers, and talk with the other parents. YOU must be working your own program before you can have other visiting teens! Shots and Boundaries must be posted and you must enforce them with a visiting teen just as you would with your own.*