



## MISSION

To Encourage, Influence, and Mobilize Young Adults

## PURPOSE

The mission of Life House, Inc. (Life Houses) is to provide a safe living environment for young adults designed to foster emotional, social, and spiritual growth. The Life Houses are designed to serve young people in all circumstances: those in college or pursuing careers, those wanting to leave behind a party lifestyle, those who have aged out of the foster care system or been to jail, those who simply want to learn to live an independent lifestyle or those who may want to partner in helping others on their journey.

Life House encourages young people to find a personal vision, build community within the houses and become leaders. It is our desire to see young people become mentally sound, emotionally balanced, socially adjusted, physically well and spiritually alive.

## INTRODUCTION

We at Life House are glad you are considering Life Houses' homes for this season in your life. Life Houses homes are unique and not your average room-for-rent. It is important to us that you understand the unique aspects and expectations that come with living here. The homes are not just a place to just simply rent but also a place of purpose. A place to find and be family in a unique way. They are places of brotherhood and sisterhood, "Iron Sharpening Iron" with welcomed accountability, not only for your benefit, but also for everyone you live with.

Life Houses are governed by love, although sometimes, tough love. This is not always easy. At times, love is demonstrated by leadership and those you live with confronting you with things you don't want to hear. They are willing to risk temporary rejection because it is for your ultimate good. It is key to be teachable, open-minded, and trust that others care enough to speak into your life.

Upon entering Life Houses you will soon discover it is not the perfect place, nor is it full of perfect, easy-to-get-along-with people. Most of us have as many problems, bad habits, and defense mechanisms as you do. However, there is no better place to develop inter-personal skills and to grow in patience and love with others who have a like purpose and who are headed in the same direction.

## REQUIREMENTS



- You must be age 18 years and older
- Not currently under the influence of mind- or mood-altering drugs. All prescribed medications must be discussed and listed for review of director.
- Complete the steps to entry pre-resident process outlined in the application process document.
- Once living in the house each new person will be on a 4-week trial period. If the young adult does not adhere to the rules of the house, he/she will be subject to dismissal.
- You are expected to have a job or acquire within one to three months. In special circumstances, such as full-time school attendance, you must have other arrangements for rent (see below).
- Work or school attendance is mandatory.
- Meet regularly with a coach.

## PROGRAM FEE/RENT

- Life Houses, Inc is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit; our goal is to support young adults (YA), ages 18-29, in the growth process of becoming responsible, independent, members of our community.
- We ask that each YA pay a monthly fee or rent. The fee is based upon operating costs.
- Changes to cost may be determined by changes in utilities and household costs.
- Fees are to be dropped off at Anita Sherley's office by 5pm on the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month. There is a \$25 late fee.
  - Anita Sherley's office is at Big Sky Brokers, 800 N Benton Helena MT 5901
- There is a \$100 damage/cleaning deposit.
- Prior to moving out, occupant must give a one-month notice, clean their room and bathroom, dust and clean the floors, and not leave any personal items.
- Some young adults join Life Houses without employment or other means to pay. Life Houses works with young adults to secure employment. During the interim, Life Houses may cover the cost of the fee until the YA has secured a method to pay for up to three months. If three months passes and the YA is still without employment, the YA's efforts to secure employment will be reviewed by the Board, staff, coaches, and Influencers, with attention given to extenuating (or mitigating) circumstances. When the situation warrants, the YA will be asked to leave.

## PROGRAM



## Group Meetings

- Life Houses meetings are mandatory.
- If a YA has three unexcused absences from meetings during a three-month period, the YA's commitment will be reviewed by the board, staff, coaches and Influencers, with attention given to extenuating (or mitigating) circumstances. When the situation warrants, the YA will be asked to leave.

## Coach Meetings and Strengths Plan

- A Life Houses Coach will meet with each YA on a regular basis. This is a cooperative effort between the YA and Life Houses, it will include categories of life skills necessary to live independently and identify areas of improvement for each YA. An Influencer will follow up and document updates on a regular basis with each YA.
- YAs are welcome to stay with Life Houses for a period of up to two years at which time a conversation will then be had and an exit strategy will be made.
- If six months pass and the YA is not making progress towards their individual Strengths Plan, the YA's efforts will be reviewed by the board, staff, coach, and Influencers, with attention given to extenuating (or mitigating) circumstances. When the situation warrants, the YA will be asked to leave.

## Employment

- It is the expectation of each Life Houses YA to become employed within the first one to three months, unless circumstances prohibit employment (see below). Life Houses Influencers will help with resume building, applications, and referrals if necessary.
- If a YA is not seeking employment, the expectation is that the YA is enrolled and participating in a High School (Equivalency) program or degree-seeking institute of higher education.
- If three months passes and the YA is still without employment, the YA's efforts to secure employment will be reviewed by the Board, staff and Influencers, with attention given to extenuating (or mitigating) circumstances. When the situation warrants, the YA will be asked to leave.
- Work and/or school attendance is mandatory.

## Absence



- Life Houses' YA thrives when healthy relationships are formed amongst all YA, staff, Influencers, and Board members. When a YA is absent without explanation, it creates worry. If a YA is repeatedly absent overnight without prior communication with the Life Houses family, the YA's behavior will be reviewed by the board, staff, and Influencers, with attention given to extenuating (or mitigating) circumstances. When the situation warrants, the YA will be asked to leave.

## HOUSE RULES

### General Policies and Requirements

- Houses are drug & alcohol free. No porn or sexual activity allowed.
- No one from opposite sex allowed in room or to stay at house after housemates are in bed or gone
- No staying night at house of opposite sex.
- Everything here is God's property and young adults are expected to treat it as such. All are expected to protect, maintain, clean and conserve the houses.
- Never go through another housemate's belongings. Such inappropriate behavior could constitute a crime, and possible charges may be brought against the offending housemate.
- To be open minded to the things of God. You do not have to believe in God to live there. Just be open as there are many who do share at meetings or live there that believe in and live by power of Christ.
- To will be quick to forgive others and be forgiven and keep a mindset of open communication
- Demonstrated through listening to others give input in my life without harboring offence and likewise speaking 'with life' into the lives of others. Accountability is valuable.
- To commit to respect housemates and actually preferring them over oneself. Being mindful of others work schedules and their need for rest and respecting others space and belongings

### Firearms

- No firearms are allowed on Life Houses properties. If this policy is not followed and the situation warrants, the YA will be asked to leave.

### Cleaning



- All who live in houses will participate in house chores according to individual house agreement. Training available if unsure how to clean.
- All house chores to be maintained throughout week.
- Personal dishes to be cleaned after each use.
- Your room is your space; however, lack of personal cleanliness that results in filth of clothes and smell is prohibited. Personal laundry must be done regularly. Laundry is not to be left in washer or dryer unattended. Regular laundry use and personal hygiene is expected and necessary when sharing living space with others.
- No trash and random items to be left in yard or on deck.

## Drugs & Alcohol

- Life Houses properties are both drug, alcohol, and tobacco free. Regardless of legal age, no alcohol is to be stored or consumed on the premises. No illicit drugs or non-prescribed prescriptions are allowed on Life House Inc. property, nor will the use of them be permitted.
- Life Houses builds relationships with young adults who come from all different backgrounds, in the event that substance use is a part of a YA's history, we require 30-days of sobriety prior to moving in.
- If board member(s), staff, and/or Influencers believe a young adult to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the individual's response plan will be followed with discretion to also seek medical attention.
- In all above mentioned situations, if warranted, the YA will be asked to leave.

## Right to Enter

- In the event that Life Houses board, staff, or Influencers believe there to be illicit drugs and/or alcohol in a YA's room, Life Houses reserves the right to enter the room without the YA present. If alcohol is found, it will be discarded. If illicit drugs and/or paraphernalia are found the individual's response plan will be followed with discretion to also contact law enforcement.
- In the event that Life Houses' board, staff, or influencers believe there to be an unsafe situation in a YA's room that may present harm to self or others, Life Houses reserves the right to enter the room without the YA present.
- At the discretion of the board member(s), staff, or Influencer(s) present, law enforcement or medical providers may be contacted if there is concern of harm to self or others.

# Life Houses, Inc. Policy Handbook



- There are no locks allowed on bedroom doors, if there is a lock found on a door Life Houses will remove it and replace it with a knob that does not lock and the YA will be billed the cost.
- In all above mentioned situations, if warranted, the YA will be asked to leave.

## Confidentiality

Life Houses Inc. board, staff, and Influencers respect the unique backgrounds of each of our YA and commit to maintain confidentiality regarding sensitive information. We commit to only sharing information in the event that our YA signs a release of information for us to do so with the requesting agency and/or we are required by law.

## AGREEMENT AND ACCEPTANCE TO ABIDE BY THE RULES AND POLICIES OF LIFE HOUSES, INC

I HAVE READ THE RULES AND POLICIES OF LIFE HOUSES, INC. MY SIGNATURE INDICATES THAT I UNDERSTAND EACH RULE AND POLICY AND HAVE ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ANYTHING I DID NOT UNDERSTAND. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THESE RULES AND POLICIES ARE SUBJECT TO DELETION, SUSPENSION, MODIFICATION OR ADDITION AT ANY GIVEN TIME BY THE APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. MY SIGNATURE FURTHER REPRESENTS MY COMMITMENT WITHOUT RESERVATION, TO ABIDE BY THESE RULES AND POLICIES, AND ANY FUTURE CHANGES, AND TO CONDUCT MYSELF ACCORDING TO LIFE HOUSES, INC. GUIDELINES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.

**By signing below, I am committing and agreeing to the above Life Houses Inc. policies:**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_