

Family Handbook

The Taylor County Substance Abuse Treatment Facility (SATF) provides defendants substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation as an alternative to incarceration. The mission of the SATF is to teach recovery, rehabilitation, and relapse awareness to defendants in order to allow them the opportunity to gradually reintegrate into the community as a responsible and sober citizen. It uses a cognitive approach to treatment for chemical dependency and criminal conduct. Though less restrictive than jail, the SATF is considered to be a correctional facility, and residents must adhere to their treatment plans, facility rules, and the conditions of their community supervision.

Prison Rape Elimination Act

The SATF has ZERO tolerance for all forms of sexual conduct between residents and staff, volunteers, contractors, visitors or other offenders. Residents can report any form of sexual misconduct by telling any staff member, filing a grievance and placing it in the Staff Relate box or by having a family or friend report on their behalf to Jennifer Cauthen – PREA Coordinator @ 325-691-7407 or 1133 S. 27th Street, Abilene, Texas 79602.

Contraband

The SATF has a unique environment, as while it is treatment it is also a correctional facility with many rules and regulations. The SATF is a Community Correctional Facility as defined by Article 42.12 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures, it is a crime, punishable as a State Jail Felony, to bring the following items into the Facility: Alcoholic beverages; Controlled Substances or Dangerous Drugs; Deadly Weapons; Cellular Telephones; Cigarettes or Tobacco Products. The transmission of ANY item to a resident of the Facility is strictly prohibited as any unauthorized items are considered contraband. For a resident to have any unauthorized items in his possession is a crime, punishable as a Class C Misdemeanor.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality is a major concern of the SATF. All information concerning residents is confidential in order to protect the resident's rights; therefore, no information will be disclosed. You may contact the resident's Residential Supervision Officer with questions about the program or regarding policies but no other information will be released.

Program length

The SATF is a 9-month, supportive residential treatment program with a cognitive behavioral approach that provides its residents a minimum of 6 hours of chemical dependency classes per week to include monthly individual counseling provided by Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors who maintain a caseload of no more than 20 residents. The program addresses responsibility by determining the resident's risk and needs and providing evidenced based cognitive and behavioral models through class instruction or group counseling designed to promote self-awareness and correct negative thinking patterns vital to reducing recidivism.

The Treatment Phase of the program is a 6-month structured living environment where residents attend substance abuse education, cognitive skills classes, life skills, social skills, re-entry, 12 step study, peer group, process group big group, employment skills as well as individual counseling and if warranted adult education, trauma and anger management. Residents also participate in recreation time, 12 step meetings, and perform community service hours. Residents meet regularly with their residential supervision officer. During the treatment phase and sometimes into the employment phase, the residential supervision officer helps the residents look into surcharges and classes working towards becoming a legal driver. Family Day, Family Education, and Kid Connection are all family-oriented programs that are offered to residents during the treatment phase.

The Employment Phase of the program is 3 months continued in the structured living environment where residents begin working in the community. They attend classes that focus on early recovery, relapse, relapse prevention, and motivation and learning how to build and maintain a recovery support system as well as process group and 12 step meetings. During the employment phase they pay room and board, transportation, laundry, commissary, and court ordered fees and have the opportunity to send money

home to their families. Furloughs are privileges offered during the employment phase to residents who exhibit good behavior. If circumstances other than behavior prohibit them from participating in furloughs, they are allowed to continue to participate in Family Education and Kid Connection.

Residents who enter the facility without a high school diploma or GED are required to attend classes and will be afforded the opportunity to get a GED. If the resident's skill level is such that they pass pre-tests making them eligible to take the GED test, the cost of the test will be covered by the SATF. If any portion of the test has to be re-taken, the cost for the re-test will become the responsibility of the resident.

Family Day

During family day, guests will be given an overview of the SATF from the rules governing the residents while in treatment to the cognitive therapy as it is used in treating chemical dependency and criminal conduct. After the overview, there will be visitation. The facility is a no-touch facility, the residents may only physically interact with their children. Each resident chooses up to but no more than 4 adult family members and/or friends who are 19 years of age or older that they would like to be included in their family day. All children, step children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews are welcome as well. The resident will provide staff with names and addresses of those people who will be invited to family day by means of a letter from the facility.

Kid Connection

In an attempt to continue or start a connection between the resident and his children, kid connection is a one hour visitation offered the second Saturday of every month from 9:30am -10:30am. Residents are allowed to visit with any children/grandchildren identified during the intake process. The children must be 18 years old or younger accompanied by one adult, there is no limit to the number of children. Residents become eligible in week 10 of their program and may participate the first time it is offered after reaching week 10 of their program and continuing through Phase 3.

Family Education

Addiction is a family problem and in an attempt to build stronger, healthier family relationships, we offer Family Education. It is a 12 week program held on Thursdays from 6:30pm – 8:30pm. It consists of one group per week for two hours, the first hour being education with the second hour being visitation. The resident becomes eligible in week 10 of their program and he will be responsible for communicating the dates and times to whom he wants to participate in the program. Two adults who are 19 years old or older may participate each week. NO children (18 years old or younger) are allowed at Family Education.

Family Education is a requirement for furlough sponsorship; a minimum of 6 of the weekly classes. Or, for potential sponsors who live outside of a 60-mile radius of Abilene, a one-time Family Education class is offered the 2nd Friday of every month from 1:00pm – 5:00pm.

Dress Code for Visitors

Males: long pants and shirt with sleeves. Females: long pants and a scoop neck shirt with sleeves, no v-necks or plunging necklines permitted.

Furloughs

Furloughs are a privilege earned by the resident and is a time to participate with family in pro-social activities outside of the facility. Residents become eligible for furloughs upon entering the Employment Phase of the program. Furloughs may be taken on Sunday only between 7:30am and 9:00pm.

Out of county residents who do not take regular furloughs will be eligible to take one 24 hour furlough during each Employment phase.

All potential furlough sponsors must:

Be approved by the Director or designee

Be 21 years old or older, or be legally married, or be the mother of the resident's child/children

Have both a valid picture ID and current auto insurance and present it at each furlough

Agree to a criminal history review

Family Education attendance – see above

The sponsor must have proof of current insurance for any vehicle used to transport the resident. If the sponsor does not have a valid driver's license or a vehicle, he/she may have a third party who can provide a valid driver's license and proof of current insurance to transport the resident along with the sponsor. Residents may not drive on furlough.

Sponsors are required to be in the company of the resident at all times during the furlough. Sponsors may not give the resident money or items to bring back into the Facility. Money can be left with staff but the guidelines below must be followed before any personal items will be accepted.

Mail and Packages

Packages, letters and cards are to be addressed to the resident and must have a full return address (first & last name, address, city, state, & zip code). The address is: 1133 S. 27th, Abilene, Texas 79605.

Residents are required to request permission from facility staff to have items mailed to them. Once permission is granted, they may receive packages containing the permitted items ONLY.

Prior to mailing or dropping off items, please make sure that the resident has been granted permission to accept each specific item. If you are mailing items that the resident has not gotten prior approval for, the resident will be held accountable and the items will be stored for the resident and not given to them until they graduate. If you are dropping the items off, you will be turned away and the item will not be accepted until the permission has been requested by the resident and approved by staff.

For local residents, approved items will be accepted on WEDNESDAYS BETWEEN 8:00 AM AND 8:00 PM.

Items not on the Approved list are considered contraband, and may not be mailed or brought to the facility.

Money

Money orders or cashier's check may be mailed to residents at any time. Money orders, cashier's check, or cash may be dropped off any day between 8:00am – 9:00pm.

Most of the residents' needs are met through the program; however money is eventually needed to purchase personal hygiene items and over the counter medication, through the commissary system. Residents will pay for those items once they reach employment if they have not preciously had the funds to pay for these items.

Medical Care

Residents are offered unimpeded medical attention. Taylor County Indigent Health Care pays for most of the residents' medical needs during treatment but once they begin employment, they no longer meet the qualifications for Taylor County Indigent Health Care so they must pay for all medications and medical expenses incurred.

Phone Calls

The residents have access to a phone system provided through Securus Technologies. They may make phone calls anytime between wake-up and curfew as long as there are no other scheduled activities. Securus has several payment options available to you. You can learn more about this by calling 1-800-844-6591 or via internet: SecurusTech.net

Leaving Messages for Residents

Usually messages are not taken for residents in keeping with our confidentiality policies. However, when a family member cannot make it to the Facility for an appointment, furlough, or when an emergency situation arises at home, Supervisory staff will take a message and relay it to the resident. A family member being hospitalized or passing away are the only two situations considered to be emergency situations. In either event, be sure to give the hospital or funeral home's phone number to Facility staff because they are required to verify the situation before granting an emergency return phone call. The phone number at the Facility is 325-691-7430.