

Family Handbook

The Taylor County Substance Abuse Treatment Facility 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 in on their behalf to Bill Dean – 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 program is designed to be a 9 month program, with 6 months of Treatment and 3 months of Employment however, the length of time that it takes a resident to successfully complete the program varies depending on compliance and the rate at which they progress. Therefore a residents' stay can be anywhere from 9 to 24 months. A comprehensive treatment plan is developed by the resident and his counselor within 10 days of his arrival which is then followed during treatment. A 3 month employment component follows treatment, concluding with an Aftercare component that includes transitional housing.

Residents' progress is evaluated regularly. Their advancement through the program depends on adequate participation in assigned groups/classes and adherence to facility rules.

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 10:00am – 5:00pm with an hour break for lunch.

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 48 hour furlough during Employment.

All potential furlough sponsors must:

Be approved by the Director and Program Director

Be 21 years old or older

Have a valid picture ID and present it at each furlough

Agree to a criminal history review

Family Education classes – 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 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 of the Facility 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 from family will be accepted on WEDNESDAYS BETWEEN 8:00 AM AND 8:00 PM.

Anything not on the Approved Items list is 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.