

Louise's House

Reentry Program for Sex Offenders

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Louise's House Reentry Program is a therapeutic residential housing and counseling service for male sex offenders exiting the GDOC prison system. The program is designed to be a transitional step-down from incarceration to community living. The overarching goal of the program is to focus on reentry skills and needs and sex offender treatment simultaneously, to increase prosocial integration skills and decrease risk factors for criminal and sexual reoffense.

Residents will live in a cooperative living environment where they will engage in therapeutic interventions aimed at relapse prevention and successful reentry into the community. Services will be delivered in both individual and group formats. Family involvement and reunification (when/if appropriate) will be encouraged and facilitated. The home is located within walking distance of MARTA and shopping needs.

The program is a minimum of 12 months. Residents will work on goals and plans toward independent living. Extension in the program may be discussed on an individual basis.

The program is an approved Sex Offender therapy program by the GA Department of Community Supervision. Offenders on probation or parole are welcome. We work together with community supervision officers to ensure effective supervision and adherence to guidelines as we develop prosocial attitudes and behaviors and sexual/criminal risk reduction. Monthly reports will be sent to officers reporting residents' progress in work, program participation, stability and compliance, including personal and programmatic goals and plans.

All residents are required to:

1. Have full time work
2. Provide own transportation to work and activities
3. Sign and abide by Program Agreement
4. Pay monthly fees and utilities
5. Participate in programming
6. Set goals and work toward successful completion of treatment plan

Programming

1. Specialized offender services
 - a. Risk assessment and evaluation
 - b. Cognitive-behavioral treatment
 - c. Relapse prevention plans
 - d. Ensure probation and parole compliance

2. Psychological health:
 - a. Treatment to address mental health issues
 - b. Anger and stress management
 - c. Sexual and emotional needs

3. Physical health:
 - a. Nutrition
 - b. Exercise
 - c. Physical exams
 - d. Medication compliance
 - e. Sexual health

4. Interpersonal relations and community integration:
 - a. Social skills training
 - b. Spirituality and faith options
 - c. Hobbies and Leisure activities
 - d. Dating
 - e. Community groups and activities

5. Money management:
 - a. Budgeting
 - b. Banking
 - c. Savings
 - d. Conservation knowledge and skills

6. Planning for the future:
 - a. Goal setting and treatment plan adherence
 - b. Educational needs and access assistance
 - c. Job training and access assistance
 - d. Secure own housing and stability
 - e. Transportation needs

Screening process

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All applicants from state prisons will be prescreened, assessed and selected by the Director. Assessment will include file review with Prison Counselor, Parole Board file review, interview with offender (phone or in person), risk assessment.

Sexual offenses must be PRIOR to July 2006 due to the 1000 ft church residency restrictions to be considered for admission.

Psychosocial Assessment includes:

- Demographics
- Criminal history
- Prison history
- Substance abuse history
- Strengths, abilities
- Work history and skills
- Educational background and needs
- Family/Friend supports
- Goals and plans
- Motivational level
- Risk Assessment: Stable 2007, PCL-R, S, Acute 2007

Program Fees

- Security Deposit - \$500.00 one time. Use \$100-150 to help get resident started with phone, clothes, food. Remainder is returned to resident after move-out when all bills and damages are resolved.
- Program fee/housing - \$500.00/month (subject to change)
- Treatment - \$25.00/week
- Share of utilities – varies per month dependent on # of residents and consumption

Therapeutic Services

Reentry programming will be individualized for the specific needs of the resident. Along with Director and program staff, each resident will develop his own goals and treatment plan, dependent on his unique needs for successful reentry. He will identify strengths, abilities and gaps in order to target help, support, and interventions.

Sex offender programming will be a specific component of the reentry program. Skills and strategies may overlap and target both areas, i.e. social skills, emotional regulation, interpersonal responsibilities, anger management.

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Individual sessions, house meetings and group therapy will be employed to target issues in the most effective manner. Weekly sessions will be held.

Parole/probation officer involvement is welcome and encouraged.

72 hours post release:

- Report to parole officer
- Electronic Monitor as indicated
- Register with the Dekalb Sheriff's Department
- Orientation to the house, rules, roommates
- Apply for Food Stamps
- Meet with Director for review of Program Agreement

Month 1:

- Obtain employment within the first 30 days of release
- Register in county of employment
- Write autobiography
- Begin weekly therapy
- Develop goals and write treatment plan

Reentry Program

The reentry component will focus on successful and healthy community reintegration including gainful employment, financial stability, appropriate social skills and interactions, physical and mental health, and spirituality. Reintegration back into a faith community is a positive intervention for successful living. All efforts to ensure appropriate and safe entry into church of resident's choice will be made and facilitated.

All residents with history of substance abuse/dependence will be required to attend AA and/or NA, and all requirements of Parole and/or Department of Corrections.

All efforts will be made to facilitate family reunification if and when that is appropriate. All residents will sign release of information to allow contact between Program Director/staff and appropriate family members.

Emphasis will be on achieving individual goals and life skills for successful independence.

Polygraph examinations will be completed as specified by Parole/Probation conditions and treatment program.

Sex Offender Specific Treatment

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Dynamic risk factors will be the treatment targets. They are those variables associated with recidivism in adult sex offenders. Acute 2007 will be completed monthly.

- Deviant sexual arousal, interests, or preferences
- Sexual preoccupation
- Anger and hostility
- Emotional management difficulties
- Self-regulation difficulties and/or impulsivity
- Antisocial attitude orientation
- Cognitive distortions that support sexually abusive behaviors
- Intimacy deficits and conflicts in intimate relationships

(Hanson & Bussiere, 1998; Hanson & Harris, 2000; Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2004)

Treatment program is based on the evidence-based structured curriculum developed by the University of Cincinnati.

3 Phases of Treatment:

- Orientation:
- Core Skills
- Relapse Prevention/Maintenance

Treatment Modules:

1. Treatment Readiness
2. Basic CBT concepts
3. Sexual arousal control
4. Cognitive Restructuring
5. Emotional Regulation
6. Social Skills
7. Relapse Prevention
8. Maintenance Sessions