



## SHERIDAN HOUSE FAMILY MINISTRIES

1700 S. Flamingo Road, Davie, FL 33325 (954) 583-1552 / 1-800-838-1552/ Fax: (954) 476-3058

[www.sheridanhouse.org](http://www.sheridanhouse.org)

# PROGRAM INFORMATION

The decision to place a child in residential care is never an easy one to make. Sheridan House strives to exhibit a balance between professionalism and compassion. As you consider the options for your family, the following information about the Sheridan House Residential Program is provided to answer some of the commonly asked questions:

### **What is Sheridan House?**

Sheridan House is a low level, voluntary residential behavior modification program. The boys are placed in the program by their parents rather than the court or state. The boys are in the program during the week and go home with their families every weekend. The Residential Program follows the Broward County school calendar, so the boys are also home for long weekends and extended breaks.

Sheridan House currently operates two boys' homes, for grades 6-10, and a school building used for our homeschool program. Each home is staffed by a set of House Parents, a married couple who have raised their own children and now focus on working with the children in the program. The House Parents live in an apartment that is part of the home, and are with the boys consistently throughout the week, working to create a family-style environment. Included in this family environment are daily chores, family meals, and other activities done together. While most of the food is prepared by the House Parents, Sheridan House cannot accommodate special dietary requests or provide for individual tastes and preferences.

There is also a Behavior Specialist in each home who provides additional support during the days and evenings at the house and in the homeschool environment, responding to behavioral issues in various settings and from the weekends at home. The Behavior Specialist also coordinates weekly activities with the boys, both off and on campus. Activities include sports (i.e., flag football, basketball, softball, soccer, fishing, etc.) and recreational activities, such as bowling, movies, and beach time. Photographs are often taken of events and activities. These photographs are used for publications Sheridan House produces as well as for reinforcing the sense of family within the homes. Parents must give expressed permission to allow their son to be photographed and for these photographs to be used for these purposes.

Additional support staff is available to assist with each family, including the Residential Leadership Team and the Counseling Center. The boys do not currently participate in clinical or psychotherapeutic counseling as a regular part of the program. However, a family may request individual and/or family therapy through the Sheridan House Counseling Center.

Finally, Sheridan House Family Ministries is a Christian organization. Bible reading, church attendance, and Scripture memorization are integral parts of the program. Care is taken to never force boys to accept a specific denominational view. Parents are welcome to ask staff about what is being taught to their son.



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### **How does the Residential Program work?**

The model of the Residential Program is based on parent training materials developed by Sheridan House, including the Parenting on Purpose curriculum. While in the program, the boys are graded for everything they do, from how well they complete their daily chores to their behavior with school to individualized behavioral goals they are held accountable for. They earn points on a weekly basis, and as they accumulate points, they earn corresponding privileges until they ultimately earn enough points to be eligible to graduate from the program.

The average length of stay is 10-12 months, but the boys essentially must earn their way out of the program based on the progress they make toward their behavioral goals. Boys may lose points based on breaking rules. Boys exhibiting extreme behaviors that the program cannot adequately respond to may be demonstrating their need for a different level of care. In those cases, boys may be withdrawn or dismissed from Sheridan House.

The boys are held accountable in three main areas: their behavior at home with their family, their behavior and effort in school, and their behavior in the house. To progress through the program, they must demonstrate positive growth in these areas. The boys receive ongoing feedback based on their behavioral choices.

### **What about school?**

The boys further their academic career using an online educational platform at Sheridan House while in the program. Prior to their admission into the Residential Program, they are withdrawn from the school they attend, and are designated as “Home Education students” through the Broward County School System. On staff there is a Florida-certified teacher who supports the boys in their academic setting with tutoring and ensuring accommodations are in place. There are additional support staff to assist the boys during school hours. When a boy leaves the program, his parents will receive an education portfolio that will enable them to continue homeschooling him or allow them to register him into school.

The Residential Program is year-round, with a six-week summer component. During this time, the boys may continue with their online education, as well as participate in vocational training and several fun activities. The summer component ends with a week-long camping trip in North Carolina, followed by a short break at home.

### **What are the parents’ responsibilities?**

Parents are required to participate in the Residential Program as well. Parents must commit to dropping their son off and picking him up on time. In a typical week, the boys return on Sunday evening at 8:00 pm, and are picked up on Friday afternoons from 2:30-5:00 pm. This is adjusted for long weekends based on the school calendar. When the boys are home, their parents are required to observe and grade their behaviors every day in a Weekend Report provided when they pick their son up. Finally, parents also are required to attend Parent Meetings and Parent Groups on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.

The main purpose of requiring parent involvement is the emphasis on the family. We never want the boys in the program to feel abandoned by their parents, nor do we wish to convey the thought of being removed from their family. Having the parents involved also demonstrates the reality that the family as a whole is growing.



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### **How much does the program cost?**

Sheridan House is a nonprofit, Christian service organization. Most of the finances at Sheridan House are derived from fundraising events and donations. The cost to operate the Residential Program is close to \$1,000.00 per week, per child. Most families cannot afford to pay this entire cost, so much is underwritten by the donations and events. It is our desire that no family is turned away for financial reasons. Steps can be taken to make the program as affordable as possible. Families that this represents a financial hardship for can apply for a residential fee reduction based on household income, which would lower this amount. A family's ability to pay for services is never taken into account when determining if Sheridan House is a suitable placement option.

For the families that have insurance, they may apply for coverage for residential behavioral treatment. Regardless of the length of time their insurance covers treatment, those families will enjoy a substantially lower out-of-pocket weekly fee. At this time, Sheridan House is not able to accept Medicaid.

In addition to the residential fee there is a cost associated with paying for school, including materials, curriculum, and instructional staff. We work closely with families to apply for state grants that may cover these fees.

### **How does a family apply for the program?**

The admission process begins with a phone intake, followed by an in-person interview and tour of the facility. Parents of boys accepted into the residential program are tasked with providing specific items required for admission and registration in school. Admission into the program is year-round, subject to availability.

For parents and individuals who have further questions, they are welcome to contact the Residential Program.

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