



SHERIDAN HOUSE FAMILY MINISTRIES

1700 S. Flamingo Road, Davie, FL 33325 (954) 583-1552 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?

The Sheridan House Residential Program exists for boys in 6th-10th grade who are experiencing behavioral difficulties at home and/or in school. The boys are placed in the program by their parents, often after various attempts to help their son have been made, such as counseling, school accommodations, or medication. Sheridan House is a low-level, voluntary program designed to help boys learn to make wise decisions regarding their behavior, as well as learn strategies to improve emotional expression and strengthen family relationships. While most of the boys live locally and go home to their families every weekend, Sheridan House also has the capacity for boys who do not live locally to remain during the weekends. Local families may opt for this service as well, depending on their needs at home. Parent participation is required through weekly parent training classes, parent support groups, and family therapy when necessary. The Residential Program follows the Broward County School Calendar for extended breaks, and all boys return home to their families during these times.

Each of the Boys Homes has a capacity for nine boys and is staffed by a set of House Parents and a Behavior Specialist. The House Parents are a married couple who have raised their family and now provide a sense of home, structure, and love for the boys in the program. The House Parents live in an apartment attached to the boys' home and are with the boys consistently throughout the week, creating a family-style environment. Included in this family environment are daily chores, family meals, and other activities done together. For the boys who remain on campus during the weekends, the program continues under the supervision of Family Support House Parents.

The Behavior Specialist in each home provides additional support during the day and some evenings, responding to behavioral issues and following up with school-related behaviors as well as those from the weekends. Additionally, the Behavior Specialist tracks weekly progress and provides individual feedback and coaching for the boys. The Behavior Specialist also helps coordinate both on- and off-campus activities, such as sports and recreational outings and facilitates various groups with the boys throughout the week.

Additional support staff are available to assist with each family, including the Residential Leadership Team and Education Team. Additional assistance can be provided through the Sheridan House Counseling Center. Individual and/or family therapy are not standard components of the Residential Program but can be provided by request of the parent or recommendation by Residential Staff. Finally, Sheridan House Family Ministries is a Christian organization. Bible reading, church attendance, and voluntary Scripture memorization are integral parts of the program. Care is taken to never force boys to accept a specific denominational view, and parents are always welcome to know exactly 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. The boys can earn and accumulate points each week based on the choices they make. As they accumulate points, they earn privileges that correspond to specific point levels, until they ultimately earn enough points to be eligible to graduate from the Residential Program and return home permanently.

The average length of stay is 10-12 months, but the boys essentially must earn their way out based on the progress they make toward their behavioral goals. Boys may also lose points based on breaking rules. In cases where boys exhibit extreme behaviors that demonstrate their need for a higher level of care, they 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 residential house. In order to progress through the program, they must demonstrate consistent growth in these areas. The boys receive ongoing feedback based on their behavioral choices and behavioral coaching from every staff member they work with.

What about school?

While Sheridan House is not a school, the boys receive homeschool education while in the program. Prior to their admission into the Residential Program, the boys are withdrawn from the school they attend and are designated as "Home Education Students" with the school system they are coming from. At Sheridan House, the boys participate in a combination of online instruction and a self-paced homeschool curriculum. The Education Facilitator is the staff member who coordinates subject level placement for the boys and provides additional support. In the classroom, there is an Academic Coordinator and Behavior Specialist who monitor the boys and provide instruction and assistance as needed. When a boy leaves the program, his parents receive an academic portfolio that includes his report cards, transcript, work samples, and annual evaluation results for his next school.

The Residential Program is year-round. The boys go home for a three-week break at the end of the school year, then return for a six-week summer component. During the summer, the boys participate in academic refresher classes, 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 (usually 7-10 days) before the new school year begins.

What are the parents' responsibilities?

Parents are required to participate in the Residential Program. For the boys who return home each weekend, parents must commit to dropping their son off and picking him up on time. In a typical week, these boys return on Sunday evenings at 8:00 pm and are picked up on Friday afternoons between 3:00 and 5:00 pm. These times may be adjusted for holidays and staff training. While the boys are home, parents are required to observe and grade their behavior daily using a Weekend Report provided when they pick their son up. As previously stated, parents are required to attend Parent Meetings and Parent Groups on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 pm (ET). Parents are encouraged to attend in person, if possible, but telehealth considerations can be made for families who do not live locally. Parents of the boys who do not return home on the weekends must commit to scheduled weekly "video visitation," which is facilitated by the Family Support House Parents.



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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 entire family is receiving help, avoiding the boys feeling singled out as “the problem.”

How much does the program cost?

Sheridan House is a nonprofit, Christian service organization. Much of the funding comes from fundraising events and donations. The cost to operate the program begins at \$1000.00 per boy each week and increases for boys who remain during the weekend. Parents are asked to cover operational costs for their son while he is in the program. Families that have insurance or Medicaid may apply for coverage for residential behavioral treatment. Regardless of how long their insurance covers treatment, those families will enjoy a substantially lower out-of-pocket weekly fee. Please note that insurance and Medicaid companies require mental health diagnoses. Families who cannot afford the full amount, and are denied insurance coverage, may apply for a Residential Fee Reduction based on household income. 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. A family’s ability to pay for services is never taken into account when determining if Sheridan House is a suitable placement option. All parents, regardless of payment plan, will receive payment reduction vouchers based on their compliance with the parental responsibilities. The vouchers can account for up to \$100.00 off each week.

Florida parents are also strongly encouraged to apply for the Florida Step-Up for Students Scholarship, which covers educational expenses. Families from outside of Florida may seek the equivalent resource in their state of residence. The Education Facilitator is available to help parents with the application process. This scholarship allows us to avoid passing educational costs to the parents.

How does a family apply for the program?

The admission process begins with a phone intake, followed by an interview and tour of the facility. If a boy is accepted into the Residential Program, parents are provided with a list of documents required for admission and registration for homeschool. An admission date will then be determined to help the boy transition smoothly into the program and homeschool environment. If Sheridan House is determined to not be the right fit for a boy, his parents will be provided with a list of resources and residential programs that may be better suited to meet their needs.

For additional information, please contact the Residential Program by calling Sheridan House at 954-583-1552.