
Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Friendship Community

WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF FRIENDSHIP COMMUNITY'S SERVICES?

Friendship Community provides residential services to people with developmental disabilities, concentrating on those who have mental retardation. These services include group home living, apartments, life sharing and home-based services. Services are offered to those who have total care needs as well as those who are fairly independent and need specialized services.

DOES AN INDIVIDUAL NEED TO HAVE A PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS OF MENTAL RETARDATION TO BE SERVED BY FRIENDSHIP?

In order to be served in the publicly funded programs of Friendship Community, an individual must have the primary diagnosis of mental retardation.

AT WHAT AGE CAN A PERSON MOVE INTO A FRIENDSHIP COMMUNITY RESIDENCE?

Friendship has historically served people 18 and older. However, younger persons may be served depending on their circumstances and services needed.

AT WHAT AGE MUST A RESIDENT OF A FRIENDSHIP HOME LEAVE?

The need for a resident to leave Friendship Community is not based on any specific age. An individual may need to leave Friendship if their needs cannot be met within the scope of Friendship's services. Friendship staff will work closely with the family and others if this decision needs to be made.

ARE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES PROVIDED TO WORSHIP SERVICES AND OTHER CHURCH ACTIVITIES?

Yes, transportation is provided as dependent upon staff's availability. Not all requests can always be accommodated. Families and volunteers also help provide transportation to certain activities.

DOES FRIENDSHIP COMMUNITY PROVIDE HELP WITH FINDING DAY PROGRAMMING OR WORK FOR INDIVIDUALS?

Friendship Community is not the primary facilitator for this but works with the individual's supports coordinator to find day programming or work for the individuals.

CAN CLIENTS TRAVEL HOME TO VISIT RELATIVES AND GO ON TRIPS WITH FAMILY?

Yes, families simply need to communicate with staff of when the individual will be going away with them.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN AN INDIVIDUAL GETS SICK AND HAS NO FAMILY?

Friendship Community cares for individuals when they are sick unless the medical needs of the individuals are greater than the staff or facility can meet.

WHO MAKES MEDICAL DECISIONS (HOSPITALIZATIONS, SURGERIES, ETC) WHEN AN INDIVIDUAL HAS NO FAMILY?

If an individual has no family or no one appointed to make medical decisions, Friendship Community's Chief Executive Officer would make these decisions.

IN LIGHT OF HIPAA, WHO HAS ACCESS TO PRIVATE MEDICAL INFORMATION?

Friendship Community has release forms for individuals to sign giving permission for certain people to have access to medical information. This would include supervisory staff and family member.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS, IF ANY, TO PROVIDE HOME-BASED SERVICES?

We are willing to provide this service as the need and resources allow. Funding can be from Person/Family Driven Support funds or private pay.

WHAT IS FRIENDSHIP COMMUNITY'S PLAN FOR EXPANSION INTO OTHER COUNTIES?

Friendship is open to expansion in neighboring counties if the funding and staffing resources are available. There should also be strong base of community support

HOW ARE SERVICES FUNDED?

Most services at Friendship are through contracts with the state and county. Friendship also provides private pay services which are funded through resources of the person or family being served. In addition, Friendship provides charity services funded by private contributions and fund-raising.

