

## What is the Sanctuary Program?

The Sanctuary Program is a safe place for runaway and homeless youth and youth in need of respite services, ages 12 through 17. The program provides: food, shelter, clothing, skilled assessment, counseling, medical care, preventive, respite and aftercare services to help young people in crisis take control of their lives.

## How Can I Contact the Program?

You can call our 24-hour hotline at 1-(888) 997-1583. Youth may call us for any reason. Some call needing to talk, while others call in search of a place to stay. If an adult calls on behalf of a youth we will, at some point in the conversation, request to speak to the youth directly.

## Do I Have to Tell You My Name?

No, but it would be helpful. Certain information is necessary for our records, but you are protected by confidentiality laws. Most of the information we ask for is in an attempt to understand your needs better.

## What Is It Like There?

Sanctuary is a safe place for young men and women ages 12-17. We are a comfortable house with bedrooms, a kitchen, living room, game/computer room, bathrooms, etc. Staff are here 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## If I Come There, May I Leave Any Time I Want?

If you decide to come, your stay here is voluntary. However, our program has specific guidelines. If you wish to remain in the program you must abide by the rules while you are here.

When you arrive you will speak to a youth worker and together, you and your worker, will come up with a plan that suits your needs. During your stay here, we will work on that plan. If at any time you decide you want to leave the program, simply let us know and we will discuss your discharge options with you.

## Will You Tell My Parents Where I Am?

When you enter our program as a resident we must contact your parent/legal guardian and let them know that you are in a shelter and how you are doing physically and emotionally. However, the location is confidential and will not be accessible to parents, relatives, guardians or friends. Later, we may arrange family meetings depending on your service plan.

## How Long Can I Stay?

It depends on your situation. Sanctuary is only temporary. Our maximum stay is 30 days; youth in respite care may stay a maximum of 21 days.

## May I Continue Going to School or Working?

Yes, if school is in session you must attend school. If you are experiencing difficulties in school, we will help you resolve them. If you are working we encourage you to continue working.

## How Will I Get to the Sanctuary Program?

You may come in on your own, we can meet you, or we can pick you up. The choice is yours.

## Is the Staff Nice?

We have a well trained staff made up of both men and women who are all very understanding of what you may be experiencing. While you are here, you will be treated with respect.

**24 HOUR HOTLINE**  
**1-(888)-997-1583**

**Children's Village Sanctuary Program**  
**(914) 593-0667**  
**[www.childrensvillage.org](http://www.childrensvillage.org)**

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Westchester Coalition for the Hungry and Homeless
- St. Faith's House Foundation  
Red Ribbon Foundation  
Morgan Stanley Foundation  
Stop and Shop



Robert P. Astorino, Westchester County Executive

## SANCTUARY PROGRAM: Questions Most Commonly Asked By Youth

the children's  
village  
SANCTUARY PROGRAM  
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

# Sanctuary Program

