



**“the desert shall rejoice, and bloom like a rose.” Isaiah 35:1**

## **PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK**

At Rose of Sharon transitional living program, we will strive to do the following things to the very best of our ability:

Offer a bible based transitional program open to women with a sincere desire to recover from the devastation brought on by chemical dependency, who have already completed their initial treatment program and want to continue living in a bible based transitional program that offers introduction back into life after addiction.

- Create an environment that encourages personal responsibility, growth in practical life skills, as well as a safe environment to move forward into the world.
- Teach responsibility on a spiritual, physical, mental, and financial level
- Grow in your relationship with the Lord
- Teach the importance of helping others and being part of a community.
- Give women a chance to practice the tools and principles they have learned in treatment, while living in a safe environment
- Foster relationships with other Christians, and help you find your place in the Christian community.

The primary purpose of The Rose of Sharon is to provide a clean and sober living environment and the following principles must be prioritized by every participant of Rose of Sharon.

- 1) Personal Responsibility is a priority. Your recovery, household, personal space, financial obligations, and the rate at which you progress is your responsibility.
- 2) The love of Jesus Christ empowers and allows each day to be lived in freedom to its fullest potential and provides the wisdom to consecutively make decisions based on biblical principles. Learning to live a Christian life is necessary and requires practicing every day.
- 3) Becoming a member that is actively contributing in the community instills a sense of value into you and your role in the community. Choosing to serve others is a way of life that must be practiced regularly.

To provide and maintain a healthy environment with these principles in mind, the Rose of Sharon program has rules that must be followed by everyone in the program.

1. **RECOVERY PROGRAM** Everyone in the program will have continual steps they are taking towards recovery from chemical abuse disorder. The program rules will be gone over with you. They are individualized for the phase of treatment you are in upon entry to Rose of Sharon.
2. **TOTAL ABSTENTION** Participants must abstain from the use of alcohol and all mood-altering drugs. Participants may not bring any of these substances onto the premises. Random searches as well as urine and alcohol test will be done to ensure the safety of everyone on Rose of Sharon property.
3. **HEALTHY EMPLOYMENT** Participants must seek and maintain healthy employment within 90 days of arriving at Rose of Sharon. Handfuls of Purpose will strive to make employment available through its various ventures and community affiliations.
4. **CONSIDERATION** Being considerate of others is paramount at Rose of Sharon. Having awareness of how your actions affect the lives of others surrounding you will serve you well in every area of your life and will help with the peer relationships at Rose of Sharon.

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **I. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

1. Each participant of the Rose of Sharon transitional program will be given a program guide that includes the phase of the program you are in upon entering the program.
2. Before moving to the next phase of the Rose of Sharon program, each participant **MUST** complete all requirements of her current phase.
3. Program requirements will differ for each phase, so the rules of each participant may differ.
4. In every phase, participants are required to attend and participate in church services and recovery groups.
5. Rose of Sharon staff will provide a list of approved churches and recovery meetings, any resident interested in going to an outside organization must have it approved prior to attending.
6. Community service is required quarterly. Opportunities to serve will be provided by Handfuls of Purpose and affiliated organizations.

7. Participants must be willing to randomly drug/alcohol screen at any time requested by Rose Of Sharon staff, any refusal will be viewed as a failed drug screen.
8. Quarterly meetings with Rose of Sharon staff will be required to evaluate progress.
9. Any participants caught breaking rules will be subject to disciplinary action and consequences determined by the Rose of Sharon staff.
10. Participants are required to adhere to approved budget, maintain employment, maintain an orderly guest house, and work on self. Rose of Sharon is a refuge for women who are willing to put in the work towards making a better life.
11. Participants will work towards the following goals: obtaining driver's license, completing any legal consequences (drug court, probation, color code), complying with DHR/CPS regulations, paying child support, and becoming financially free.
12. Participants will receive privileges and rewards for the steps they take towards freedom.
13. Participants may not at any time ask Handfuls of Purpose volunteers to borrow money or vehicles.
14. Participants at Rose of Sharon are expected to use common courtesy in all communications including staff, peers, church, co-workers, and personal relationships.
15. All contacts must be approved by staff, and when necessary communications monitored.
16. Social Media is strongly discouraged for Rose of Sharon participants.
17. The common room attached to the office will have television and Internet access for all participants to use. Respect for the common room will be expected by all Rose Of Sharon participants and their guest.
18. House meetings will be held as often as necessary in the common room, it is mandatory and only excused if approved by Rose of Sharon staff.
19. Under no circumstances will any participant reschedule a class, therapy session, or other scheduled event without first obtaining approval from Rose of Sharon staff.

## **II. APARTMENT RULES**

The Rose of Sharon is a residential transitional program and will provide program participants with individual guest housing. There are responsibilities that come with the housing that are non-negotiable.

1. Rose of Sharon property will remain an asset of the 501(c)3, Handfuls of Purpose.
2. Participants will be responsible for maintaining cleanliness of the guest house provided.

3. Participants must report any maintenance issue to Rose of Sharon staff, and may not make repairs without prior approval.
4. Rose of Sharon staff will perform apartment inspections on a random basis.
5. Participants dismissed from the program of Rose of Sharon will automatically be dismissed from Rose of Sharon property. One week, 7 calendar days, will be allowed for the participant to remove all personal property from Rose of Sharon premises. After that 7-day period, the property then belongs to Handfuls of Purpose.
- 6. Participants leaving the program must make arrangements with Rose of Sharon staff prior to picking up property.**
7. No sleepovers.
8. If furniture is moved in or out of apartment, it must be approved by staff before moving.
9. A curfew will be set for participants of Rose of Sharon program in each phase, these curfews are non-negotiable.
10. No guests unless approved by staff.
11. You will be given the code to the apartment door you are using at Rose of Sharon, **do not share this code with anyone**. Staff has the code, and no one else needs access.
13. Anyone caught with illegal drugs of any kind on Rose of Sharon property will be dismissed immediately.
14. Respect your neighbors! No loud music or being very loud after 10 pm.

### **III. EMPLOYMENT AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Program fees must be paid on the dates assigned by Rose of Sharon staff. If any exceptions are made, they must be approved by staff prior to the date they are due.
2. Participants will be responsible for personally stocking the groceries in the guest house provided by the Rose of Sharon.
3. Upon arrival at Rose of Sharon, there will be a 90-day period in which a participant is required to obtain employment.
4. Participants who are furthering education in college will be required to work part-time.

5. A Participants program fees may be sponsored by family or church, but the participant will still be required to work and be responsible for a small portion of fees.
6. Financial planning at Rose of Sharon is required, participants will meet with a financial advisor and agree to a reasonable budget. Budgets will be reevaluated quarterly or as needed with participant and her financial adviser.
7. Weekly meetings with staff to review finances will be required. Banking information, receipts, and check stubs must be provided at each weekly meeting.
8. Rose of Sharon staff, volunteers, and participants will not at any time lend money.
9. After gaining employment, a participant who loses their job can be dismissed from the program, depending on the reason the job was lost. If a participant loses her job, she must immediately report it to Rose of Sharon staff.
10. A Rose of Sharon participant may not work where open alcohol is served.

#### **IV. TRANSPORTATION**

1. Transportation for participants will be provided for a weekly fee.
2. Participants are encouraged to meet all the requirements to become a **legal** driver. You may have personal transportation at Rose of Sharon, but will be required to have current tag, active insurance, and driver's license. Your insurance must always remain active.
3. Receipts from automobile insurance payments must be copied and kept in participant file.
4. Any participant driving a ministry vehicle must notify staff of any traffic violations or accidents that take place. If an accident occurs while a participant is driving a ministry vehicle, the participant is responsible for deductible, towing fees, and any other costs accrued due to the accident.
5. Ministry vehicles will be available to participants upon request and approval by staff. Ministry vehicles must be signed out and signed back in upon return,
6. Ministry vehicles will be filled with gas at the beginning of each week, participants who use the vehicle are responsible to return the vehicle full of gas.

#### **V. DRESS CODE**

1. Leggings are not pants, wear a shirt that covers your body.
2. You must be able to "pinch an inch" of fabric in blue jeans.
3. Church clothes will always be modest.

4. Cleavage is for your husband. Don't show it to the world.
5. Skirts must never be more than 3 inches above the knee and shorts should be no shorter than your fingertips.
6. Bras are required outside of the apartment.
7. When in doubt, ask staff to look at your outfit.
8. If staff says no about clothing, do not argue. Yes, is Yes, and No is No.

## **VI. SOCIAL INTERACTIONS**

Relationships are part of life. Family, friends, church, as well as dating, will all be part of and influence your recovery. The guidelines are as follows:

1. Family relationships will be monitored on visitation days for the first 30 days a participant resides at Rose of Sharon.
2. Any person coming on the property of Rose of Sharon must fill out visitor paperwork to keep on file in the office of Rose of Sharon.
3. All visits may be monitored by staff or a volunteer from Rose of Sharon.
4. All visitors are required to stop by office and sign in.
5. Dating will be allowed in the later phases of the program. The dating rules that must be followed will be given to a participant upon entry of that phase.
6. Rose of Sharon encourages participants to get involved in their church, recovery groups, and community. As these healthy relationships increase, time and boundary requirements will change accordingly.
7. Use good judgement in your friendships and relationships.

I have verbally discussed the expectations of living at Rose of Sharon with a staff member and been provided with a physical copy of the handbook.

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Signature/Date

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Witness/Date

