

# Oxford House of New Jersey

## GENERAL HOUSE RULES & GUIDELINES

- 1) Any relapse inside or outside of the house will result in immediate expulsion by dismissal vote. Emergency contact must be immediately notified.
- 2) Any member who relapses should be expelled and away from the house for a minimum of 30 days before they can re-apply to any Oxford House, 6 months for the same house.
- 3) Not paying your EES when it is due are grounds for immediate expulsion.
- 4) Disruptive behavior can lead to a house decision to place members on a behavioral contract or expulsion. Physical violence can result in immediate expulsions. All parties involved can be expelled. An emergency meeting must be called to vote on these situations.
- 5) After the member is off probation, members are required to continue to work a program of recovery.
- 6) **OVERNIGHT STAY POLICY:** Three nights per week, either away from the house or having a guest stay over. A week is business meeting to business meeting. Any extra nights need to be approved by the house. If a member stays out past curfew, it will be considered an overnight. No member should be away from the house for more than 48 hours without prior house approval.
- 7) No overnight adult guest at the Women and children houses. All guest must be out of the house by 10pm.
- 8) Weekly house meetings are **MANDATORY** for all house members. Excused only for emergencies and with prior house approval. Unexcused absences can result in expulsion.
- 9) House members should be checking in with the house daily. Sign out using the board in the common area to let the house know where you are.
- 10) All house members must be active in the community (i.e. employed, community service, school or other house approved activities.)
- 11) Chores are to be thoroughly done on designated days and are to be kept up daily. Bedrooms must be kept neat and clean at all times.
- 12) If you make a mess, clean it up! Keep personal items in their personal place. All house items used, must be returned to where they belong.
- 13) House members are responsible for their guests at all times. At no time will a guest be involved in house business or left in the home the house member present.
- 14) Do not use or take anyone's personal items without permission. This constitutes theft and are grounds for expulsion.
- 15) Residents will wash and dry their clothes until completion. Do not leave items in washer or dryer unattended.
- 16) Turn off all tv's, radios, heat, AC, lights, etc. when not in use.
- 17) No sleeping in common areas.

- 18) We have no bosses in the house. We share equally in the responsibilities of this house for our benefit and personal growth.
- 19) If conflict arises, try to resolve it by appropriate mutual agreement. Do not allow it to affect the entire household. If it is not possible to come to a mutually satisfactory resolution, both parties are responsible to go to the house president and discuss the situation. All house members may be called together for a special meeting to discuss the issue.
- 20) If anything gets broken, fix it, replace it, or, if it needs the house attention, notify the coordinator immediately.
- 21) Multiple fines within 30 days can be considered disruptive behavior and can result in expulsion.
- 22) If you are prescribed medications by your doctor, you must take it as prescribed. Self-medicating will be dealt with as a relapse.
- 23) All medications must be kept in a lockbox in your personal area and out of the view of other house members. Absolutely no sharing.
- 24) Absolutely no sharing of prescribed medications. This is considered a relapse of all parties involved.
- 25) Mark all your food items with your initials. Taking someone else's food without permission constitutes theft and will be dealt with by the house members.
- 26) Under no circumstances will there be firearms or ammunition in an Oxford House at any time. Anyone caught with firearms or ammunition will be immediately expelled for disruptive behavior.
- 27) Any illegal activity inside or outside of the house can result in immediate expulsion.

You may be fined, put on a contract, or expelled from the house for not following these rules and guidelines.

Members who are expelled from the house or leave voluntarily may pick up their belongings the night of the house meeting or arrange a time and day to pick items up at the house's convenience. At least one member must be present when items are picked up.

Belongings need to be removed from the house within 30 days. Any remaining belongings can be donated or discarded.

