



Chamberlain's Children Center Mentor Program Agreement

The purpose of the mentoring program is to provide children with an opportunity to learn appropriate social skills, build self-esteem, and experience appropriate interactions with positive role-models. Our program is designed to match mentors to children with the greatest need for connection. Many of our clients truly have no one in their lives – no family, no former guardians, no sibling visits, no outside providers for support, etc. – outside of the group home. Studies show that children without “unpaid” connections are exponentially more at risk for continued mental health problems, behavior disorders, attachment difficulties, and delinquent behavior throughout their lives. Our goal is to minimize these risks by making sure that as many of our clients as possible have these outside connections during their time with us, and we take care to match clients with mentors who appear to be the most compatible in personality and interests. Often these relationships continue to some extent even after the children leave Chamberlain's and move out of the area. Ideally, every one of our clients would be matched with a community mentor.

Mentor Requirements

- All mentors must be at least 18 years old, complete the mentor application and associated paperwork, undergo Live Scan fingerprinting, and be cleared by the Department of Justice.
- Mentors are asked to make a commitment to visit their mentee at least twice a month for at least an hour each visit for the duration of the child's stay at Chamberlain's Children Center.
- Mentors are matched based on a variety of characteristics to ensure that the mentor and mentee will work well together. Factors can include gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, history, interests, and temperament.
- Mentor/mentee relationships may be terminated based on the following criteria:
 - Mentor's lack of availability or commitment.
 - A change in the child's need that would be better met by another mentor (e.g., religious interest or affiliations, sexual orientations struggles, etc.).
 - An irresolvable conflict, after repeated attempts to resolve it.
- Many of our residents have suffered some sort of abuse or neglect. Because of this, they sometimes exhibit behavioral issues. It is not a mentor's job to try to heal their mentee's wounds.
- Mentors are never expected to assist in a crisis situation on campus where the uses of restraint or de-escalation methods are required.

SAFETY, LIABILITY, OR BEHAVIOR ISSUE	OUR PROGRAM POLICY IS...
Exchanging phone numbers	Mentors may exchange phone numbers with their mentees. It is recommended that limits be set with your mentee as to how often and under what circumstances he may call your home.
Physical displays of affection (e.g. hugs)	Mentors are allowed to give hugs, if appropriate (must know the circumstances of the mentee- e.g. mentee may be working on boundaries as a goal)
Contact with my mentee's family/SW	Mentors do not contact family or social workers. Communication to other professionals in the mentee's life goes through the case manager.
Mentee overnight visits at my home	CCC employee mentors may not take their mentees for visits to their home. Outside mentors may take their mentees to their homes; however overnight visits must have approval from the social worker which would be requested through the case manager. Follow the guidelines of the behavior program for the mentee's availability for off campus visits.
Transportation issues	Outside mentors are authorized to transport their mentees. Employee mentors must be on the authorized driver's list in order to transport their mentee. Follow the guidelines of the behavior program for the mentee's availability for off campus visits.
Mentee reports serious physical or emotional health issue (e.g. abuse or thoughts of suicide)	Employee mentors are mandated reporters for child abuse. Outside mentors should report to case manager if mentee reveals child abuse. Any talk of suicide should be communicated to appropriate staff as soon as possible. Any attempts of suicide, the mentee should be taken to the Emergency room and staff notified immediately.

Mentor Activities

Activities should foster a relationship between the mentor and mentee while providing opportunities to promote a healthy self-esteem/self-image, practice conversation and social skills, explore new interests, and learn about the world.

- Meetings should be scheduled with the Cottage Supervisor or staff in advance.
- Activities off of campus are encouraged; however, children must be a level 2 or higher to be allowed to leave Chamberlain's.
- Meeting should be free or very inexpensive.

For more information on mentor/mentee interaction and activities, see Chamberlain's Mentoring Handbook.

Mentor: _____

Child: _____

I understand the following:

_____ **The purpose of mentoring**

_____ **My responsibilities as a mentor**

_____ **Gift Policy**

_____ **Scheduling procedure**

I plan to meet with my mentee every _____ week for _____ hours.

_____	_____
Mentor	Date
_____	_____
Witness	Date
_____	_____
Child	Date