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## FAQ's for Maternity Home Program

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**November 30, 2018**

Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries

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[www.rlom.org](http://www.rlom.org)

## What is Redeeming Life?

Welcome to Redeeming Life, a **Christian** maternity home program for single expectant women. Our program will prepare you for your future and equip you with the tools you need to master everyday life situations. If you become a resident with us, your new home will be a place of comfort, peace and growth as you prepare for your baby's arrival. **Please note that Redeeming Life is not an emergency or crisis shelter. It is a live-in, full-time housing program.**

This FAQ document will give you a good preview of how our program works and what it might be like to live at the maternity home known as the **Southward House**. All the guiding principles of Redeeming Life are based on the fruit of the Holy Spirit:

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23*

## What is the admissions process?

Applications for residency are available on our website: [www.rlom.org](http://www.rlom.org). **The application process takes a week to 7 to 10 days.**

### Admissions Process

1. **Guidelines:** Applicant reviews FAQ's (this document) or program Guidelines to determine if the program is right for them.
2. **Application:** Applicant completes an application (online form or MS Word doc)
3. **Admissions Review:** The admissions team reviews the application to determine if the program will meet the applicant's needs. The result is either an invitation for a personal interview or a referral to another ministry for services.
4. **Interview:** Applicant meets with admissions staff for a personal interview, tour, and discussion and Q&A about the program.
5. **Admissions Testing:** Applicant must take and pass drug test, background check and psychological screenings prior to admission.
6. **Compliance with Program Policies:** Applicant signs written documentation to certify that she agrees to comply with RLOM Program and Policies as implemented by RLOM administrative staff. This documentation includes acknowledgement that all bags, suitcases, personal belongings, and room are subject to inspection during the move-in process and weekly thereafter.

## **What's it like to live at the Southward House?**

There are six bedrooms in the maternity home and the residents live together, along with a Residential Manager. Each woman one is on her own journey toward self-sufficiency, and everyone is taught important life skills that are required for them to eventually move-out and live on their own with their children. They live as a family, cook and eat together, have daily devotions, pray, and study God's Word together. When "life happens," they support one another. They learn to get along with people with different backgrounds and ideas. When conflict arises, they learn how to handle it, and they learn how to forgive one another and to accept forgiveness. There is no cost anything to live at the Southward House. Food and basic supplies are provided.

## **"Who is a good candidate for this program?"**

Women who possess a teachable spirit and truly desire the opportunity to learn and grow and have a strong desire to become self-sufficient and take care of themselves and their babies are the best fit for this program. They should also have a desire to strengthen their spiritual walk with God and engage in regular devotions and Worship. The biggest barrier to success in the program is an unwillingness to give up past relationships that are detrimental and prevent a woman from steadily working toward progress.

## **"What's a typical day like in the house?"**

Residents are sked to wake up, clean up, get dressed, and eat breakfast between 7 and 9 AM. By 9 AM, everyone is required to be completely ready for the day - breakfast is over and the dishes are washed and put away. The Residential Manager begin her weekday inspections at 9 AM to assess the cleanliness and orderliness of everyone's room and the common spaces. Each woman then goes about her day at work, school, appointments or job interviews using her own transportation or by walking, biking, or using public transit. Residents at home eat lunch between 12 and 1 PM.

At dinnertime, the women take turns cooking one night a week, and the cook that night prepares the evening meal for everyone in the house to be served between 6 and 6:15 PM. Training is provided to teach the women how to cook, plan means and plan a menu. Everyone in the house sits down together to a family style dinner from 6 to 7 PM, and during the meal, they have a devotion. After dinner, the dishes are cleaned and put away, and then it's time to do chores or laundry before bedtime at 10 PM. There's also free time after dinner to connect with friends or family by phone, relax, watch TV, study, play games or talk with the other women.

## **"How much privacy will I have in the house?"**

Although you will have private time in the home, we do not allow anyone to isolate themselves in their rooms. During weekdays, if you're home, you'll have an hour of private time before dinner at 6 PM. Once dinner, devotions, and chores are done, you'll have time private time every night before 10 PM. You'll also get time on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

## **"How much freedom will I have to go and come as I please?"**

We expect that each woman is actively engaged in either work or looking for work, going to school or studying during daytime hours. You will not have a key to the house to come and go as you please, but someone will always be there to let you in when you return from your outside commitments. All residents will provide a weekly calendar of appointments to the Residential Manager. We always need to the residents' whereabouts for safety and security reasons.

## **"What kind of chores will I have to do?"**

All residents learn to clean everything in every room of the house, and everyone will be assigned chores on a rotating basis to learn how to properly maintain a home for themselves in the future.. Chores include dusting, vacuuming, sweeping and mopping, cleaning the kitchen and bathrooms, and more. Residents are responsible for daily, weekly, and monthly chores. Daily chores are completed between 7 and 10 PM, weekly chores are completed on Saturdays, and monthly chores are completed the last weekend of each month.

## **"When can I have my friends over to visit?"**

Unfortunately, we do not allow family, friends or any type of meetings inside the home. After 30 days, residents are permitted to spend time with friends and family. You may request an overnight visit after successfully completing 12 weeks in the program. You'll have time to connect with everyone by phone before bedtime at 10 PM as long as you call from your room and are respectful of other residents. There are times when residents are not permitted to their phones at all - during meals, family devotions, or house meetings, for example. Lastly, we expect that you will not be using your phone or answering calls from midnight to 6 AM, unless it is an emergency."

## **“Will I have a private bedroom and bathroom?”**

All residents have a private room and share a bathroom with another resident. We provide a bed, dresser, clock radio, bed linens and towels for resident use. No personal televisions are permitted in the resident bedrooms. However, you may watch TV after dinner until 10 PM in the living room with the other residents. Residents are given wi-fi access for a personal computer to look for jobs or do school work. Wi-fi access is not available for recreation (videos, social media, etc.).

## **“How do the residents help each other out?”**

All the women are encouraged to provide support and encouragement to one another while living together like a family. Our goal is to create an environment of trust, security, and mutual respect for each other and the staff. There are some restrictions in how residents may help one another. Neither the women nor the staff are allowed to give other residents a ride in their cars. No one is permitted to babysit for another woman’s child.

## **“What about child care for my baby?”**

Redeeming Life does not provide child care to residents. All child care and babysitting must take place outside of the maternity home. In order to go to work or attend class, all residents are expected to secure child care and pay for it directly.

## **“What does it cost to live there?”**

Redeeming Life helps the residents create budget plans that makes sense. We’ll teach you to shop and how to get along with much less money than you think you need in order to save and take care of yourself. Rent, utilities, food, and basic toiletries (shampoo, soap, toilet paper) are provided at no cost. The residents are responsible for personal expenses and will have to budget for them, including clothing, shoes, cosmetics, specific brands of toiletries, cell phone, insurance payments, car repairs and transportation expenses, medical expenses for herself and her baby, child care expenses, and tuition and books, as examples. Residents are not allowed to incur any new debt in the program except student loans for higher education. All residents are required to limit their spending to no more than 40% of their income. Additionally, they must save 50% of their income, and donate or give away 10% of her income (tithe).

## **"Can I bring all of my stuff with me?"**

All residents should plan to bring clothing, shoes, personal items, toiletries, photos, cell phone, and important paperwork with her as they move into the Southward House. Everything is subject to inspection on move-in day, Maria. We do not allow weapons of any kind, and no one is permitted to bring in outside furniture, appliances, or a TV.

## **"Do I have to go to church and pray?"**

Yes. We believe that all of us need Jesus, and no matter who we have in our lives, we always need Him first to guide and protect us and be with us, no matter what. Part of your journey with us is to grow in faith with God, and bring your baby up knowing who Jesus is and having a relationship with Him. We also know that families who worship together have healthier and positive relationships with each other. Therefore, all residents attend Bible Study and worship services every Sunday across the street at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer beginning at 9 AM.

## **"What happens if I break the rules?"**

We care deeply about the women who come to live with us. It's very disruptive and difficult for everyone when a resident leaves the house. Sometimes, residents don't want to abide by the rules and they are asked to leave. We want to avoid this, whenever possible. It is very important that you understand the expectations and reality of how life is inside the maternity home. It may not match your expectation of how life "should be." Only you can decide if this is right for you. Failure to comply with the house or program rules will result in verbal warnings or written violations, and multiple violations may require termination from the program.

## **"Now that I've read this, what should I do next?"**

Are you ready to take the next step? If you're interested in applying for residency at Redeeming Life, please go to [www.rlom.org](http://www.rlom.org) and complete the application. We would love to hear from you. Thank you for considering our program. May God bless you and protect you throughout your pregnancy and provide the best direction for you to succeed.

God Bless You,

Sheryl DeWitt, Executive Director and Deaconess Liz Broth, Program Manager