

## **Questions You May Wish to Ask When Choosing a Group Home Provider**

**Agency:** Pride Inc.

**Name:** Tony Baker

**Phone:** 701-258-7838 ext. 126

**What happens if I don't like living here or I don't get along with my roommate?** You can try working things out, making changes in the environment, or moving somewhere else. No one will force you to stay anywhere you do not want to be.

**How soon can your agency provide me with ISLA services?** If hours are available, services can usually be set up in 30 days; or sooner depending on the need.

**Can you tell me about staff recruitment and turnover?** Compared to other agencies, Pride has one of the lowest turnover rates in the State. We recruit staff through word of mouth, our web page, Facebook, having a positive presence in the community, and advertising when necessary.

**Can I interview and hire the staff that will be working with me?** We encourage everyone we serve to participate in the hiring process. You will be asked to review your staff's performance during evaluation time; as well as share your concerns at any time with the Residential Supervisor in your home.

**Can I choose who helps me with personal cares?** Yes.

**If I am sick, is there staff available to stay with me?** It depends on your level of independence and how comfortable you and your team are with you staying home. Each person is different.

**What type of training does your staff receive?** Staff are provided training in first aide, CPR, therapeutic intervention, and module training through Minot State University in which they can become certified in Intellectual Disabilities. All team members go through a drug screening at the time of hire and then are put into a random selection pool thereafter. Each staff also goes through a criminal background check before they can work at Pride.

**What kinds of things can you help me with?** We can basically help you with anything. Each person sets their own goals and we help them achieve them. We help with Activities of Daily Living (ADL's), social skills, money management, shopping, cooking, rec/leisure, you name it.

**What is the visitation policy?** We only ask that you take into consideration the feelings of your roommate or housemates when having guests. We also encourage advance notice for planning meals and other arrangements.

**When and how often can I spend the night somewhere else?** State regulations state a person can only be absent for 30 days within a fiscal year. Pride's fiscal year runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**How many roommates would I have? Can I have my own room?** Group homes range from five to eight people and most have their own rooms.

**What will this cost me?** This will depend on eligibility for services. Typically services are paid through a State agency such as Developmental Disability Services. We do offer private pay if the person does not qualify for day programming services. Typically, each person is responsible for room/board, long distance, rent, and possibly furniture rental.

**What is your policy regarding personal money?** We encourage people to be as independent as possible. We provide representative payee services as well as assistance with budgeting, money management, and exploitation.

**Will you help me monitor my medications, doctor appointments, etc.?** Again, each person has different needs and wants. We do help with medication monitoring, attending appointments, and following through on recommendations.

**Do you provide transportation?** Each group home has its own van. If the van is not available, staff can provide transportation or transit can be arranged. Transportation costs are included in the room and board rate.

**Do I have input into my meals?** Everyone is encouraged to participate with planning and preparing meals.

**What type of personal belongings will I need?** Most people have a small TV and fridge in their rooms. You will also be responsible for personal hygiene items. If you want to bring your own bedroom furniture, you can. Otherwise, Pride does provide bedroom furniture. All other furniture for the home is already there for you.

**Are there house rules/discipline?** There is no discipline. However, there are rules and people are expected to participate with cleaning, cooking, laundry, etc. Basic respect and courtesy rules apply whenever you live with others.

**How are my community based activities planned and carried through with?** Pride has an activity coordinator who sends out a monthly calendar of community events to each home. People can participate in as many or as few activities as they want. Some of the activities people participate in include: Special Olympics, bowling, dances, movies, Wizards games, Bobcat games, high school and college sports, fishing, casino, crafts, etc. You can participate in whatever you want to, there is no limit and there is no rule on what you can do. We will support you as you need as long as it is not illegal.

**Am I able to use the phone and make long distance calls?** Yes, but you will be billed for the long distance.

**Will I be responsible for chores?** Yes, everyone is expected to participate based on their ability.

**Do I have meetings? If so, how are they set up and scheduled?** Yes. There is an initial admission meeting, then a 30 day review, and then an annual meeting after that. You or any member of your team can request additional meetings at any time.

**If I'm not my own legal guardian what say do I have in my services?** We encourage you to advocate for yourself and work with your guardian to give you as much say in decisions as possible.

**What are your criteria for accepting me?** We want to make sure we can provide the services that best fit your needs.

**What information do I need to provide?** The information is usually provided by the Developmental Disabilities Program Manager. Some of the information includes: medical and immunization history, psychological evaluation, and risk assessment. The more information we have about you, the easier it will be for us to help you become more independent in your life.

**Additional information - Group homes are monitored by The Council Accreditation Reviews, Title 19 surveys and DD Case Management. Copies of recent survey results are available upon request.**

*Developed by Region 7 Interagency Task Force on Transition Subcommittee*

**You can find this as well as other transition information at: [www.dpi.state.nd.us/transitn/index.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/transitn/index.shtm)**