

Life Challenge Program Handbook

THE MINISTRY OF LIFE CHALLENGE

HISTORY

Life Challenge (LC) was conceived in 1964 under the name of Detroit Teen Challenge, as the result of area ministries and churches having a burden for young men and women with life-controlling problems. It was patterned after and loosely associated with New York Teen Challenge founded by David Wilkerson (1960) of “The Cross and the Switchblade.”

Life Challenge has two campuses, Detroit and Flint, and operates with its own Board of Directors under the auspices of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District. It is further affiliated with Teen Challenge USA, International.

Life Challenge is a non-profit, tax-exempt, ecclesiastical corporation. As such, Life Challenge receives no federal, state, or local monies. Support is provided strictly through caring individuals, churches, companies, and our own work efforts. The only charge assessed to students for the entire year is a \$700.00 induction fee to be paid upon entry.

Currently, we have capacity for 105 students — 85 men and 25 women. Our students come from a wide range of backgrounds - socially, economically, educationally, and religiously - and must be at least 18 years of age. Approximately 50% are on some form of legal probation. Most come from the surrounding communities, but many are referred from other states.

PHILOSOPHY

There are many in the general population who need “help” with addiction issues. We serve those who have come to recognize specifically their need for God. Life Challenge works from a spiritual model. We believe that the human heart is sinful and until a person is “saved,” he/she cannot live a life of freedom.

We want to help men and women become more than “clean” and “sober.” Our goal is to provide the opportunity for individuals to experience a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ.

To that end, Life Challenge is a highly structured program. Discipline is a bedrock value. Students must follow a rigorous schedule from morning until evening. Communication with the “outside world” is strictly monitored.

General Practices & Procedures

1. Smoking and/or chewing tobacco are prohibited.
2. Possession of pornographic material, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes or other tobacco products is strictly forbidden.
3. All prescribed medications must be approved and kept in the staff office.
4. Cursing, slang, or racial slurs are not tolerated.
5. Communication with members opposite sex—including talking, writing, hand gestures, eye contact, touching, etc, unless otherwise authorized, is strictly forbidden.
6. It is expected that students comply with the daily regimen physically, mentally, and spiritually.
7. Proper respect is to be given to all Life Challenge staff and volunteers.
8. Students' personal property may be examined at any time by a staff member.
9. Students are not permitted to leave Life Challenge property without proper authorization.
10. Students must be on time and ready for all scheduled activities.
11. Students are required to report to, and remain at, the appropriate location for all assigned activities.

Student Contraband Guidelines

1. All medications - including vitamins, cough syrup, weight lifting powder/or tablets. Exceptions may be made for medications authorized by a physician and approved by Life Challenge staff.
2. All monies: currency, food stamps, checks, credit cards, ATM cards, money orders, etc.
3. Radios.
4. Any weapons: any object deemed potentially dangerous by the staff.
5. Stamps.
6. All glue (including model, wood, and paper).
7. Mouthwash with alcohol.
8. Matches and lighters.
9. Playing cards, dice and computer games.
10. Cellular phones, pagers, Palm Pilots, I-Pods, and Flash Drives/External Hard Drives.
11. Food items and beverages, other than water, are not allowed in student rooms. Coffee is absolutely prohibited in student rooms

Student Literature Guidelines and Practices

1. During their first 90 days in the program, students are permitted to read ONLY the Bible. Once this time period has been completed, students are permitted to read pre-approved Christian books.
2. Magazines and newspapers are prohibited.

Personal Appearance / Hygiene Guidelines and Practices

1. Proper daily hygiene is mandatory.
2. For male students, hair must be cut so it is no longer than a traditional collar and the ear is showing. Pony tails, spiked, fades, shaved, or extreme hairstyles are not permitted. Beards, goatees and any facial hair under the lower lip are prohibited. Sideburns must be trimmed in line with bottom of ear. Mustaches may not extend beyond the mouth.

Medication Guidelines and Practices

1. Students must withdraw from drugs and alcohol prior to being admitted to the Life Challenge program.
2. At the Detroit campus, psychotropic medications are not permitted. Individuals currently taking psychotropic medications should consult a physician for the purpose of detox and have a release form signed by the physician. The Flint campus may be able to accommodate these medications as determined by Life Challenge staff.
3. All prescription medications must be pre-approved by Department Supervisor.
4. Prescription pain relievers such as Tylenol III, Vicodin, Tramadol etc., are prohibited at Life Challenge.
5. Over-the-counter medications such as Nyquil, Tylenol PM, and mouthwash with alcohol are not permitted at Life Challenge.

Student Accounts

1. All student money will be kept in a personal account at Life Challenge.
2. Students must provide their own money for their personal needs.
3. Students are not permitted to spend money on “wants” until financial obligations such as induction fees to Life Challenge have been satisfied.
4. Any money received as a result of any services provided by the student on behalf of Life Challenge will become the property of Life Challenge.