

In order to make your loved one's stay at Life Challenge as productive for their lives as possible, it is important that you as the supporting family, partner with LC to bring about the best possible outcome in the life of your loved one. These guidelines that we are presenting to you are an effort to make you as informed as possible to our visitation policies and procedures, but are also a request for your partnership with us, for the good of your beloved and also all involved in our program.

In an effort to guide you in this support role, we have compiled the New Student Family Guide to help answer some of your questions and help connect the entire family to Life Challenge.

Our program is highly structured and disciplined. You may find some of the rules difficult or unnecessary, but we ask that you help us by supporting them. They are essential to the well being of each student.

#### PHONE CALLS, LETTERS and VISITS

During a student's first 30 days phone calls, letters, and visits are not allowed. After eligible family members have attended their first Family Visitation Orientation, and at least 30 days have passed since the student's entry into the program, letters, phone calls and personal visits on Sundays are permitted.

- Family Visitation Orientation generally takes place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month from 5:00 - 6:00 PM. This is also the day of our Student Graduation Ceremony. Attendance at this ceremony is also required for all family members attending their first Family Visitation Orientation. The Student Graduation Ceremony takes place from 6 – 7 PM. This event is important so as to give new students and their families a vision for the importance of completing the Life Challenge program.
- In November, the Orientation takes place on the Wednesday prior to the Thanksgiving Holiday from 1:30 – 2:30 PM (followed by the Graduation Ceremony from 3 – 4 PM). In December, the date and time for these events are TBD.

On approved holidays, all students may have visitors including those who are new to the program and have not reached the aforementioned visitation approval criteria. Holiday visiting hours are 1:00 (12:00 Men) to 6 pm.

- The phone call is restricted to 10 minutes, once a week, on a pre-assigned day and only to approved family members (i.e. mother, father, grandparents, spouse, and children). The student will need a calling card if the phone contact is outside the (313) area code.
- All letters, sending and received, are read and must be approved by staff.
- Visits are allowed every Sunday from 12:30 - 4:30 pm
  - No smoking is allowed.
  - Visitors are requested to dress modestly.

- Students are not allowed to leave the premises with their guest; this includes going to the car for any reason. In addition, once the guests enter the student's residence they will not be allowed to go back to their car.
- Students are not to visit with other student's visitors nor is any sharing of food permitted.
- DO NOT allow the student to use your cell phone to talk, text, email, or use social media of any kind.
- Visiting dorms or rooms are prohibited.

#### HOLIDAY VISITS

On approved holidays, all students may have visitors, including those who are new to the program and have yet to fulfill the visitation approval criteria.

1:00PM to 6PM for Women's Division.

12:00PM to 6:00PM for Men's Division.

1. New Year's Day
2. Easter
3. Memorial Day
4. Independence Day
5. Labor Day
6. Thanksgiving
7. Christmas Day

#### PROCEDURE FOR BRINGING ITEMS TO A VISIT:

Student needs are to be initiated by the student. Unauthorized gifts are not permitted during visitation.

Items brought by visitors MUST BE approved in advance, and handed to a staff member at the door. No item is to be brought in and given to the student directly.

The procedure for clearance:

- Hand the package to a staff member at the door.
- Staff will search the package.
- Staff will give the student the package if the contents have been approved in advance; otherwise, the package will be given back to the visitor to take home.
- Stamps, toilet paper, and calling cards may come in at any time. Items must be handed to a staff member at the door first.

There is no reason to worry if a student forgot to bring an essential item to the program. We can supply almost any need when necessary.

PASSES – Students are required to follow the policies and guidelines of Life Challenge when they are on pass. Visits outside Life Challenge for all students are as follows (and at the approval of LC Directors):

Note: Passes are only granted if a student's induction fee is paid in full.

Passes are subject to academic performance and student conduct.

#### After Month 4:

- (1) 12-hour local pass
- Visitation with spouse – (1) 24-hour local pass

#### After Month 6:

- (1) 24-hour pass

#### After Month 9:

- (1) 53-hour pass

#### After Month 10:

- (1) 53-hour pass

#### After Month 11:

- (3) 53-hour passes

NOTE: 53-hour passes start 12:00 noon on Friday ending 5:00pm Sunday (exception: Travel Time- Supervision approval)

- Sick time does impact a student's pass time:
- A student is permitted three sick days. Anything beyond, he/she will be charged with a 12-hour expense of pass time.

#### PASTOR VISITS

- A pastor may visit a student Monday through Thursday from 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm.
- Call the office to set up appointment.
- Pastors may also visit on Sundays during regular visitation hours. No advance notice is necessary for Sunday.
- Pastors have the option to eat with the student they are visiting either in the cafeteria or in private. Pastors may also bring food for the student, but this must be eaten in private with the student.

#### CHURCH ATTENDANCE

##### Sunday morning and Wednesday evening:

Brightmoor Christian Church, 40800 W 13 Mile Rd, Novi

Families are welcome to join their student (after completing 30 days) for service on Sunday morning at 9:15 am and Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm.

- The services begin promptly. Please arrive 15 min prior to the service before the students take their seats in the sanctuary. Once the student is seated it is disruptive for them to change seats.
- The student will be allowed to sit with you if he/she has 30 days in the program, and only in a designated area, during worship. The student must return to the group immediately after the service.

#### STUDENT ACCOUNTS

Students may have two separate money accounts disbursed by a Life Challenge staff person:

- a) Personal accounts (only allowed after the induction fee is paid in full)
  - Women are allowed to shop once a month for personal items excluding clothing.
  - Men have access to a commissary located on our property twice a week.
- b) Medical accounts can be established even if the induction fee is not paid in full. The money is to be used for:
  - Prescription refills, if necessary
  - Doctor appointments
  - Reimburse driver for gas money when taking a student on a medical appointment. The average cost is \$10 per trip.

A family member or friend may provide money for a student, but no money is to be given directly to the student.

- To add money to a student's account, make the check out to "Life Challenge" and note the student's name on the check. Specify whether the money is for personal or medical use. Mail to: Life Challenge, 17667 Pierson, Detroit, MI 48219, Attn: Student Acct.
- When a student permanently leaves Life Challenge his account will be closed. Any balance will be returned within (30) days if requested.

#### EVENTS: "Invest in a Life"

We have fund raisers during the year that the students' families can participate in. We are a nonprofit, 501 c(3) corporation and receive no federal, state, or local funding. However, our goal for these fund raisers is two-fold: (1) We want the community to know that we exist and we are here to help provide hope and healing for those bound by addiction; (2) We do need the financial resources to operate our one-year residential program.

1. Walk-a-Thon
2. Spring and Fall Dinner
3. Bella Christmas Lunch (Women)

We need your help to make these events a success. For details on each event visit our web site.

- Please tag our web site: [www.lifechallengesemi.org](http://www.lifechallengesemi.org) as one of your favorites. The monthly newsletter and our calendar can be found there.

LIFE CHALLENGE OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN  
**NEW STUDENT FAMILY GUIDE**



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A GUIDE TO HELP YOU IN A SUPPORT ROLE.