

STP Special Needs Shelter of Last Resort

ADMITTANCE CRITERIA:

Any individual admitted to the STP Special Needs Shelter of Last Resort must be electrically dependent, have their own required medical equipment and be accompanied by a caregiver.

Explanation: The Special Needs Shelter is designated for residents, who are electrically dependent, have their own required medical equipment and who are accompanied by a caregiver. They must have stable medical conditions and require uninterrupted electricity for medical equipment, such as oxygen concentrator, nebulizers, CPAP/BiPAP machines, monitors or pumps. STP SNS has a 200 pound weight limit on its cots. If you weigh more than 200 pounds you must to bring something to sleep on that can be managed by the patient and caregiver.

ABSOLUTE EXCLUSION CRITERIA:

No individual will be admitted to the Special Needs Shelter of Last Resort without a caregiver.

Absolute exclusion includes persons with special medical needs requiring a higher level of care that cannot safely be provided in a shelter of last resort, such as:

- Individuals requiring the intensity of service only provided at a hospital or skilled medical facility;
- Ventilator and/or respirator dependent persons;
- Comatose individuals;
- Individuals with a communicable/contagious condition, including infected wounds;
- Pregnant women who are having contractions or are in labor;
- Individuals reporting chest pain any time in the last 24 hours, or who are experiencing a heart attack;
- Individuals with uncontrollable or violent backgrounds;
- Any individual deemed inappropriate for admittance to the Special Needs Shelter of Last Resort by the Shelter Manager.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Individuals who are homebound with a caregiver must have their caregiver stay in the shelter with them at all times.
- Individuals with medical special needs and/or their caregivers are responsible for bringing all personal medications, medical equipment and supplies, special foods, alternate bedding, and clothing needed meet their medical needs for a seven day period.
- Individuals with medical special needs and/or their caregivers must assume primary responsibility for any medical care, medical procedures, medication administration, and activities of daily living that they have been managing in the home setting.
- Individuals with medical special needs and/or their caregivers are responsible for clearly labeling all medication and medical equipment with the individual's name, address, and phone number.
- Individuals with medical special needs and/or their caregivers must assume primary responsibility for managing oxygen and equipment. Those utilizing oxygen concentrators should bring their equipment with them for use while electrical power is available, including battery backup.
- Individuals with medical special needs and/or caregivers who cannot sleep on a standard cot due to a medical condition and/or physical limitations must bring their own bedding that is approved by their physician for use in a shelter of last resort (i.e. a medical bed or a cot with adjustable heights for head elevation). **NOTE: The body weight capacity of the shelter cot is 200 pounds.**
- Individuals with household pets are solely responsible for the total care AND supervision of the animals while in the shelter, including pet food and water, medication, restraints, and sleep surfaces. All household pets shall be crated or kenneled in a species-specific carrier. No veterinary or pet services will be available in the shelter.

ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS:

Significant limitations and other issues may be present or arise at the Special Needs Shelter of Last Resort. Therefore, individuals with medical special needs and their caregivers should not expect optimal facilities or conditions in shelters.

- **Facility Limitations:** The Special Needs Shelter will be established in a school building which WILL NOT be equipped as a medical care facility. Although the facility has some form of emergency back-up power generation, it may be limited based upon the type of emergency or disaster. The ability to provide for the special dietary requirements of occupants may be limited. Facilities might not have adequate heating or air conditioning. The facility might not have optimal space (i.e., 100 square feet per person) for occupants. It is also possible that the facility will have limited communications capabilities (e.g., no internet service, no [or limited] landline and/or cellular telephone service, etc.) for individuals and their caregivers.
- **Staffing Limitations:** The Special Needs Shelter **IS NOT** a medical care facility. It is not staffed with a doctor. The staff at the shelter will not serve as caregivers to shelter residents.

- **Safety and Security Limitations:** The safety of shelter occupants and staff cannot always be assured. The integrity of the building and the safety of performing required medical procedures by the individual or their caregiver may be jeopardized in uncontrolled or austere situations.
- **Supplies and Equipment Limitations:** The ability to obtain supplies and equipment from the community during an emergency may be limited or nonexistent. Standard cots are supplied for bedding and may not be safe for use by individuals with certain medical conditions and/or physical limitations. **Also, the cots have a maximum weight capacity of 200 pounds.** Alternate bedding will not be supplied in the shelter; therefore, individuals and their caregivers who cannot sleep on cots should bring alternate bedding approved by their physician for use in the shelter of last resort.