

Survivor Empowerment Center

Shelter Policies

Admissions and Eligibility Policy:

It is the policy of Survivor Empowerment Center to provide a temporary, safe shelter/refuge for adults and their dependent children who have experienced domestic violence (physical, emotional) and/or sexual abuse.

A **typical stay** at the shelter for homelessness is 30 days and for domestic violence is 45 days. The length of stay is dependent upon the time it takes the client to meet weekly goals and objectives. Extensions may be granted after staff members have reviewed the individual's circumstances.

Survivor Empowerment Center admits adults and their dependent children without regard to race, creed, sex, ethnicity, color, national origin, county of origin, marital status, gender identity, sexual orientation, citizenship status, ancestry, spoken language, disability, military status, religion or economic status. Eligibility shall be determined without regard to age and gender according to the policies outlined. Services shall not promote a specific religion or lifestyle. Eligibility for shelter services shall be limited to persons for whom appropriate levels of care are available. A preliminary assessment and determination of the level of immediate care needed shall be made prior to admission

An adult (age 18 or older or an emancipated minor) and their dependent child(ren), if applicable may be admitted to the shelter under the following circumstances:

1. The adult is fleeing a domestic violence situation.
2. The adult is a recent victim of sexual assault.
3. The adult is homeless and the census of the shelter is fewer than 16 residents.

An adult and their child(ren) may be refused admission to the shelter under the following circumstances:

1. The adult is **homeless** (not fleeing domestic violence) and the **census of the shelter is 16 or more residents.**
2. The adult is posing an immediate **risk of harm to their self or others.**

3. The adult has been placed on the “**Do Not Admit**” status list due to abuse of shelter services.
4. The adult is less than 18 years of age and is **not an emancipated minor**.
5. Individual circumstances may warrant admission of minors with parental permission and staff approval after all other avenues have been exhausted.
6. The adult is legally incompetent and the **court-appointed guardian** (who has legal “placement authority”) **objects** in writing to the adult’s admission into the shelter.
7. The adult **requires nursing care** or more personal care than simple oversight as referenced in the Nursing Home Care Reform Act.
8. The adult has a **mental or physical condition** which cannot be accommodated by the shelter or which cannot be accommodated without resulting in an undue burden. Access to the shelter will not be limited due to architectural or communication barriers. Where removal of such barriers is not readily achievable, Survivor Empowerment Center will seek to provide services through alternative methods if such methods are readily achievable.
9. The adult has been diagnosed as having a **communicable disease** which poses a threat to the health and safety of other residents and/or staff. Some examples include: Active TB, Meningitis, Hepatitis A, E. coli, Salmonella and Shigella.

Survivor Empowerment Center, Inc. follows and adheres to the Service Provider Guidelines indicated in the Illinois Domestic Violence Service Provider Guidelines manual provided by the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Illinois Department of Human Services.