

As a Virginia Association of Recovery Residences Certified Recovery Residence, we seek to provide a safe sober living environment that meets the highest state and national standards. We understand that we do not recover alone and that it requires the support of our community to become our best selves. We also understand the importance of being a “part of” your community and being responsible for and accountable to your community is an integral part of the recovery process. In providing a sober living community, we are inviting you to participate in the community as well as setting up a structure that is conducive to personal recovery. Residents will be required to attend a weekly community meeting as scheduled, perform a minimum amount of service work around the building, and participate in upholding the accountability of their peers throughout your time with us. We have found through experience that taking up the responsibility of the community process provides a sense of ownership and belonging. This, in turn, provides a sense of purpose and direction which helps to guide us on the path of becoming more productive members of society.

- This is a VARR Certified Residence. What is VARR?

Virginia Association of Recovery Residences (VARR) is the state certifying body for recovery residences in the state of Virginia. Per the VARR website:

“VARR members provide the highest level of service to their residents and clients throughout Virginia. Members have been accredited through VARR’s rigorous screening process, thus ensuring top-notch services. VARR also presents a collaborative voice for recovery residences throughout our Commonwealth and works ensure that everyone in recovery is able to access programs that offer high quality recovery residences.”

- What is the application process?

Applicants come to us by several paths. Whether it is a transfer of status from the Transition Program from The Healing Place (Women or Men), a referral from one of our community partners, or someone off the street seeking a safe and sober living arrangement for their personal recovery, the process is basically the same. This is handled by our property management office who would guide the prospective resident through the process.

- Do I need any furniture?

The apartments are move-in ready and furnished. Individuals only need to bring their personal belongings, clothes, toiletries, etc. There is no on-site storage for personal furniture outside of what is already there.

- Is there a lease/what kind of commitment is expected?

The fee is on a week to week basis and there is no lease other than a signed agreement to pay weekly. We ask that a thirty-day notice be given prior to moving out so the necessary arrangements can be made to fill the space/get it ready for the next resident/etc. Residents are expected to adhere to the rules and guidelines of the residences, which includes an individualized recovery plan to maintain sober living, but there isn’t a set timeline for the duration of stay.

- Can I pick my roommates?

Several factors are taken into consideration for placement at the residences. This includes the obvious such as space available and which room arrangement is chosen by the resident. Accountability is the next deciding factor in that we find solitude to be detrimental to personal recovery so we avoid having individuals being in an apartment by themselves. We work hard to develop the community aspect of the Recovery Residences, so people are often placed with strangers to foster those relationships. There is no policy in place that says friends can't live in the same apartment, but we don't place people based on these friendships.

- Can visitors stay overnight with me?

There are no overnight guests allowed at the residences. Visitors are only to be met with in common areas. Many people in recovery are victims of trauma and may feel uncomfortable by having a stranger in their home. In the interest of the safety and security of all of our residents, anyone not residing in an apartment should be met with in these common areas outside of the actual residence.

- I get paid bi-weekly/monthly. Can I pay my room fee when I get paid instead of weekly?

Arrangements can be made through the property management office to pay bi-weekly or monthly, but the fees are accrued weekly on Mondays at 9am for the following week. In order to avoid any late fees, the resident must pay in advance. For example, if arrangements have been made to pay bi-weekly, the resident must pay one week ahead so there is never a negative balance. A negative balance would trigger a late fee of \$10.

- Can I bring my car?

Residents are allowed to park on property and allowed to have one vehicle per resident. Residents are required to register their vehicle with the property management office and have the vehicle properly registered and tagged. Individuals are also required to have appropriate licensing and insurance as required by law and the vehicle must be parked in the appropriate locations. Any unregistered, untagged or improperly parked vehicles are subject to being towed.

- I have a family or payee that will be paying my rent. Is this ok?

Third party payments are accepted and the resident will be notified of any payments made on their behalf. Keep in mind that there are no refunds issued by CARITAS for overpayment. If a resident is asked to leave the property for any reason, any funds would be forfeited. If the individual moves into another VARR certified resident after leaving, in certain circumstances, this balance may be transferred.

- Is there a credit check or background check?

There is no credit check, however there is a background check. This is not to deny access to anyone, but rather to help tailor their individual recovery plan so that we may assist in helping to overcome any legal issues or obstacles that may be present. We do not harbor individuals who are actively being sought by any federal, state, or local government, or any office of the Department of Corrections, but a criminal record, probation/parole or an ongoing case do not prevent anyone from residing with us.