



Torres Community Shelter
101 Silver Dollar Way, Chico, CA 95928
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www.chicoshelter.org

MUTUAL RESPECT CODE

The Torres Shelter and our community would like to welcome you.

Our staff and volunteers are committed to ensuring that the Torres Shelter remains a safe, clean and healthy environment for all. To honor this commitment, we ask each of our guests to agree to the following code:

Initial all spaces

- _____ 1. I understand that my stay at the Torres Shelter can not exceed 180 consecutive days.
- _____ 2. I agree to participate in Service Coordination while at the Shelter. I will meet with my assigned Service Coordinator as directed and participate in the creation and implementation of an action plan to help me exit the Shelter into a better situation.
- _____ 3. I agree to check in each night by 6 p.m. unless an exception is pre-approved. Check-in officially starts at 5 p.m. I understand that not checking in by 6 p.m. forfeits my opportunity to stay in the Shelter for at least that night, potentially longer.
- _____ 4. I understand that weapons, even “toy” weapons and pocket knives, aren’t allowed at the Shelter.
- _____ 5. I agree not to damage or vandalize Shelter or other guests’ property.
- _____ 6. I agree not to fight, bully or intimidate (physically or verbally) other Shelter guests or staff. I accept that this includes any physical discipline of children.
- _____ 7. I agree that racist, sexist, or homophobic comments are not appropriate at the Shelter. I understand that this includes offensive language and inappropriate humor. The Shelter almost always has children in residence, and as an adult I agree to set a positive role model.
- _____ 8. I understand that people of all faiths, belief systems and philosophies are welcome at the Shelter and so I will not distribute religious material during my stay at the Shelter.
- _____ 9. I understand that public displays of affection at the Shelter can become problematic and so I agree not to engage in excessive hugging, play-fighting, massaging, kissing and other forms of intimate behavior. I certainly understand that sexual intercourse is not allowed on the Shelter premises.
- _____ 10. I agree to remain fully clothed at all times when not in the bathroom, even while sleeping. Shower curtains should be closed during showers and nudity is only appropriate in the bathrooms.
- _____ 11. I understand that alcohol and drugs are not allowed at the Shelter. For the protection and safety of all of the guests, I understand that if I am under the influence, I will not be allowed to stay at the Shelter. I agree to be tested for substance use, which will factor in prescription medications, by Shelter staff at any point during my stay. If I refuse to be tested, I understand that I am forfeiting my opportunity to stay at the Shelter.
- _____ 12. I understand that the Shelter staff will log all prescription medications and that medications need to be kept in the appropriate personal bin.
- _____ 13. I understand the need to inform the Shelter staff of any and all medical conditions, including those that involve syringes, sharp implements, or the disposal of bodily fluids.
- _____ 14. I want to stay at a Shelter that takes appropriate steps to protect my health. I understand that I need a tuberculosis (TB) test as a condition of stay at the Shelter. Tests are available at the Public Health office for a small fee or are covered by MediCal/CMSP. I know that if I cannot afford the fee, I have to go to the Butte County Dept. of Social Services and apply for medical coverage. I agree to have the results of my TB test within one week of entry, unless I can provide documentation of a negative test which is less than 3 months old.
- _____ 15. I understand that the Shelter is not responsible for the personal property of the Shelter guests, and that I can reduce my chances of having personal property lost or stolen by keeping it in my personal bin. I accept that any belongings left at the Shelter for five days after exiting will be considered abandoned

and will be discarded. This includes clothing, bicycles, and personal property left in storage bins or dorm areas.

- _____ 16. I agree to stay on the Shelter premises after I've checked in. I understand that the Shelter needs to maintain good relationships with our neighbors. I also agree not to access my vehicle after check-in unless accompanied by a member of the Shelter staff.
- _____ 17. I understand that men are not allowed in the women's bathroom, or the hallway leading to the women's dorm unless authorized by Shelter staff.
- _____ 18. I understand that pets can not be accommodated on Shelter property. Certified animal companions are allowed.
- _____ 19. I agree to smoke only in designated areas, if at all. I'll deposit my cigarette butts into the designated receptacles in order to respect the grounds of the Shelter. I agree to only two 15-minute cigarette breaks between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. in order not to unduly disturb the other Shelter guests.
- _____ 20. I agree not to spit while on the Shelter premises. I understand that spitting can be used as a sign of disrespect for others and can cause public health concerns.
- _____ 21. I accept my responsibility as a Shelter guest to share the workload at the Torres Shelter. Medical excuses from licensed physicians can be used to determine which chores are appropriate. I also agree to clean up after myself and make my Shelter bed each morning.
- _____ 22. I understand that the Shelter does not provide a telephone for outgoing calls.
- _____ 23. I understand that staff has access to all areas of the Shelter at all times, but as a guest I'm not allowed into the offices or behind the lobby or kitchen counters without staff authorization.
- _____ 24. I understand that personal visitors are allowed for half hour intervals between 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- _____ 25. In order to ensure the safety of children at the Shelter, I understand that parents or guardians are responsible for their supervision. Children need to be within arms length of a parent or legal guardian at all times. Children will be accompanied to the restroom by a parent or staff member and may not be left in the care of other guests.
- _____ 26. I accept that there is a limited amount of space available for the storage of personal belongings. Each guest receives a personal bin and I agree to keep my property in that bin to 20 pounds or less. I understand that backpacks, purses, suitcases, etc., are not allowed in the dormitory areas. I also agree not to store personal items in the dormitories.
- _____ 27. I agree not to interfere with other guests trying to sleep after the lights are turned off through the use of personal lights or other personal appliances and electronic items.
- _____ 28. I agree to legibly print my name nightly on the sign-in sheet.
- _____ 29. I agree that the Shelter staff may disclose personal information in case of an emergency to appropriate personnel.
- _____ 30. I understand that the Shelter needs to maintain good relationships with our neighbors, and I agree not to trespass through any of the Shelter neighbors' property.
- _____ 31. I agree that personal televisions, radios, cell phones, mp3 players and electronic devices should not be allowed in the dormitories after lights out. I understand the exception for quiet alarm clocks like a watch alarm that can be used for a guest to wake up in time for a job.
- _____ 32. In order to keep the morning routine running smoothly, I agree to access my personal bin only once in the morning and get out everything I need for the day
- _____ 33. I agree to take my footwear with me each day.
- _____ 34. I understand that all of these policies are in place to ensure that I feel safe during my stay at the Shelter and can focus on my plans for my life after I leave the Torres Shelter.

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____