



The Admissions Process

There are four basic steps involved in entering Mercy Home for Boys & Girls.

Contact or Referral

We reach out to people in the community who may know of an at-risk child who needs a fresh start. Teachers, school guidance counselors, parents and other relatives, social service professionals—any caring adult who recognizes a child's cry for help can make a referral to Mercy Home by calling 312-738-7590.

Informational Visit

A representative from our Admissions program will outline for the child and the child's family the services offered. We answer any questions about Mercy Home and explain what is expected of the youth and the youth's family. And, we provide them with our handbook of rules and information which they must read and understand prior to placement.

If the family wishes to seek placement at Mercy Home for the youth, we will schedule an assessment that consists of academic testing and personal interviews.

Assessment

- **Academic Testing**—A brief series of tests measures the cognition, achievement and emotional well-being of the youth. This will be used to help us set educational achievement and treatment goals and design a plan to address any learning issues.
- **Interview**—Conducted by a master's level diagnostician, the interview establishes the young person's motivation, appropriateness for placement, clinical needs, and social history.

At this time, they also meet with a degreed educational coordinator to determine how our educational supports may best help that young person succeed in school. This includes formulating an educational plan and selecting the most appropriate academic setting for the youth once admitted.

Acceptance

Admissions staff determine whether the young person is sufficiently motivated to enter Mercy Home and follow our program's rules and structure so that they can make lasting, positive life changes. Staff also assess whether the needs of the child would be best met by the services we provide and the current space and availability within our programs.

Upon acceptance, a child is invited into Mercy Home and a move-in is scheduled.

Sometimes, we may determine that a child needs services outside of Mercy Home to address their specific

circumstances. For youth who are not admitted, we can connect them to other agencies in the area that can provide the most appropriate programs to help the child.

A Partnership with Families

We work with financially disadvantaged families. Consequently, we are able to provide care for youth and families based on a sliding scale fee. Mercy Home has never turned away a family due to financial reasons.

Admission to Mercy Home is a partnership we create with the young person and his or her family. We encourage full cooperation and support from families, continued communication, participation in planned visits, family therapy, and educational progress reviews. This partnership helps us pursue our ultimate goal for each child entering Mercy Home, which is re-uniting them with their guardians.



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Know a kid in crisis? You can refer a child to Mercy Home by calling 312-738-7590.

mercyhome.org/admissions

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