

GRAND FORKS COUNTY

Certified Youth Shelter Care Center

125 S. 5th St.

Door 6, Downstairs

Grand Forks, ND 58201

youthsheltercare@gfcounty.org

(701) 780-8254



Facility Operations:

The Grand Forks County Shelter Care Center is a community-based, non-secure, temporary care co-ed facility designed to provide youth between the ages of 10 and 17 with a safe and stable environment. Male and female residents of Shelter Care have equal access to all programs and activities of the facility. Male and female residents never sleep in the same room or share the same room. Furthermore, reasonable accommodations are made to integrate residents with disabilities with the general population in order to grant them access to the program and service areas, provided such accommodation is consistent with facility safety and are unlikely to place the resident or others into situations of direct threat to health or safety.

Certified shelter care providers offer a temporary safe bed for no more than seven days to children and youth during a family crisis. The use of certified temporary shelter care can prevent foster care placements by addressing immediate needs while supports and services are put in place for families. These services support child safety and well-being and help strengthen and stabilize families.

Grand Forks County Youth Shelter Care Staff are responsible for the ongoing care of the Youth in our Center. We are required to provide constant monitoring of the Youth and document that monitoring in a consistent manner.

Youth Shelter Care Staff members are expected to be a positive role model for these Youth. They will assist Youth in making positive choices while in the Center, which may also translate into their everyday life.

Staff will need to be firm, fair, and consistent with all the Youth. When Youth feel they are being treated unfairly or differently from others, they may engage in inappropriate behavior and be difficult to manage. How you interact with one Youth may be observed by other Youth who will then make decisions about you and how they can expect you will treat them.

Learning the routine and emergency procedures, getting to know the Youth, and communicating with co-workers on an ongoing basis will help make good decisions. When dealing with people, you need to be prepared to think quickly and look for solutions that stay within Policy but may not be directly outlined. Because of this, we must look at the situation and make quick, solid, reasonable, decisions.

The Staff of the Center shall ensure the safety and security of all Youth and the Center at all times while on duty. Staff shall also ensure they act in a professional manner and treat all people equally and with respect and dignity.

The Grand Forks County Youth Shelter Care Center will ensure there are adequate direct care employees working to meet the minimum employee to resident ratio.

- Grand Forks County Youth Shelter Care Center will ensure that there is an employee who is available 24 hours a day / 7 days a week to accept emergency placements.
- Grand Forks County Youth Shelter Care Center will ensure that regardless of awake or overnight hours, there will be no less than one (1) employee for each six (6) shelter care residents.

Staff are responsible for the ongoing monitoring of all Youth within the Center. This includes audibly and visually monitoring all Youth. Staff must complete checks on each Youth randomly throughout the day and night, but no more than 15 minutes shall lapse between checks. Checks will be done a minimum of every 15 minutes when a Youth is on a Suicide Risk.

The Grand Forks County Youth Shelter Care Center shall hire a supervisor of the Shelter Care Program. This Supervisor will work directly under the Administrator of the Detention Center, Attendant Care Center, and Shelter Care Center. The Supervisor of the Center shall be responsible for the daily operation of the Center in a safe and secure manner. The Supervisor along with the Administrator will report directly to the Grand Forks County Commissioners. The Supervisor shall be hired by the Grand Forks County Human Resources Department and the Board of Commissioners. Other Departments may be asked for input. The Supervisor must have a bachelor's degree in a related field such as Public Administration, Social Work, Behavioral Science, or a Human Services Field and have several years of related work experience.

Grand Forks County Youth Shelter Care will hire employees who shall assure and be devoted to the health and safety of each resident in placement and coordination of the resident's safe return to the custodian, parent, or guardian. Additionally, these employees shall achieve the competencies necessary to meet the needs and engage appropriately with each resident in placement. All staff must be at least twenty (20) years of age and have a high school diploma or equivalent.
