

Parent Handbook



MathomHouse

When Treatment Matters

Our Mission

Mathom House aims to rehabilitate your son; challenging him to fully admit his sexual misconduct; fully appreciate the harm he has caused his victims, their families, and his community; and find ways to avoid re-offending. Mathom House has been fulfilling this mission for the last 20 years, and has treated over 200 boys, while many others have received outpatient services from us. In 2005, an independent research study concluded that the rate of re-offending was 3.9% (over a 20 year span), well below nationally published standards. In 2009, a 5 year study yielded a 0% rate of reoffending.

We are committed to involving and informing you, the parents, in your son's treatment where appropriate. We recognize and emphasize the importance of family in a young man's life, and we know that the support of his family will increase the chances of a successful treatment outcome for your son. There are, however, issues of privacy and appropriate boundaries in your son's therapy. There may be times therefore, when you receive less information than you would like at that particular time. This will be further explained in this handbook.

About Mathom House

Mathom House is a division of Edison Court Incorporated, a private non-profit agency which also oversees Ravenhill Psychological Services. Ravenhill provides outpatient assessment and counseling services to youths and families and has offices in Doylestown and Fairless Hills. Mathom House residents have been referred by the Juvenile Court of one of the counties in Pennsylvania because they have acted in a sexually inappropriate manner, which warrants removal from their community and placement in specialized sex offender treatment. Most residents have been Adjudicated Delinquent for sexual assaults involving children or peers.

Mathom House is licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW) to provide residential and secure care to juveniles. We have two

wings of the building, which are governed by separate DPW standards. The East side is a secure unit and residents are usually placed there when they first enter the program. As the name suggests, there is a higher level of security. We are required to restrict access to the outside hence doors are locked. Residents are locked in their room overnight and at other appropriate times. They are afforded fewer privileges and more restrictions with a greater emphasis on supervision and safety. Residents have the opportunity to earn more privileges and ultimately to graduate to the more desirable West Side. The West Side is a residential unit and we are required to leave doors to the outside unlocked, and residents may not be locked inside their rooms at night or any other time. West Side residents are typically our more veteran kids, and have a higher level of privileges and trust.

The treatment team consists of a doctoral level licensed psychologist, and seven master's level clinicians including 3 licensed counselors. This full-time team is also complemented by a number of adjunct master's level clinicians and 1 to 3 master's and doctoral level students. We have a self-imposed standard of employing clinicians with at least a master's degree and we have at least 2 group facilitators to ensure the quality of our group sessions. **The program staff** consists mainly of Bachelor's level men and women with mostly criminal justice or psychology backgrounds.

Realities of Placement

Unfortunately, your son has been Adjudicated Delinquent, or Dependent, by a Juvenile Court in Pennsylvania, and now finds himself away from his family and placed in a treatment facility. As you already know, this brings some difficult realities to bear on you as parents. While efforts are made to consult and inform you about your son's placement, you have lost a lot of control over your son's life, and you will not always agree about decisions he makes, or decisions made about him. At Mathom House we are proud of the culture and environment we have created and we work hard to sustain it. However, our values, and the rules which reflect them, may not always be in full agreement with yours. For example, there are rules about who may visit residents and when, including restrictions about contact with minor siblings. There are also restrictions about phone calls, mail, dress, contraband, music, etc.

Furthermore, the sex offender treatment your son is undergoing will, of course, deal with very explicit sexual issues, family history, family relationships, and any traumatic experiences. As parents, you need to prepare yourself that private family issues will be discussed by your son in therapy, and that you might discover things about your son or your family that are unpleasant and troubling. Regarding sexual issues, be aware that we do not promote any political or moral standpoint. We educate residents about legal versus illegal sexual acts, and discuss sexual orientation. We stress the importance of having personal relationships, sexual or otherwise, that reflect respect for self and others. We neither condone nor condemn any legal sexual acts or relationships, but encourage residents to establish their own value system, make responsible decisions, and live with the consequences. More details about treatment and house rules will be discussed later. The important thing to stress is that we are committed to helping your son, but urge you to recognize that this can be a painful process, and to trust that we respect you and your family.

Grievance Procedures

The Director, Kristin DeForest, and Assistant Director of Residential Services, Brad Cherry, are always willing to answer questions or concerns you have about the program or your son's welfare. If you are still unsatisfied after speaking with them, you are invited to speak with or write to the CEO of Edison Court Inc. Dr. Donald Tangora, and he can be reached at 215 345 8828. You are also encouraged to contact your son's Probation Officer if you still have unresolved complaints or concerns. Please be assured that complaints or concerns are welcomed, and will be treated discreetly and without negative repercussions for your son. Your son's individual therapist will be a good source of information and insight into your son's treatment, but be prepared that he or she will not always be able to share specific details of your son's therapy due to issues of confidentiality.

Initial Adjustment

Our residents usually adjust fairly quickly to the routine and structure at Mathom House, but, like any new experience, it can be stressful and scary. Residents are oriented to the program immediately with an intake packet which explains their rights, the nature of treatment, day to day behavioral expectations, the daily schedule, rules and grievance procedure and so on. We often ask a senior resident to discuss the program with the new resident. New residents are assigned a primary counselor and primary therapist, within the first 24 hours. The primary counselor pays particular attention to the resident's behavioral goals and tries to mentor him through the program. The primary therapist will coordinate the resident's treatment and meet with him for weekly individual sessions.

Upon entering the program, the new resident is subject to a **"blackout"** period of one week. During this time he will not be able to receive visits or telephone calls. This is standard practice in Juvenile placements. While it may appear harsh, it allows the resident to focus on orienting to the program, making friends and settling in. Ironically, contact with parents or other relatives typically makes it more difficult for the young man to focus on his current situation and more likely to dwell excessively on what he is missing. After the blackout period has ended, phone numbers of relatives are processed and approved, and telephone calls and visitation may begin. Bearing in mind this is a treatment program for sexual offenders, some of whom have been abused by caretakers, there is a process for approving contact between residents and members of the community. Residents are asked to request names and phone numbers for placement on his **"phone list"**. The primary therapist will review this list and ensure that it seems appropriate for the resident to speak with members of that household. Sometimes restrictions are placed on which members of a particular household are allowed to speak with the resident. For example, if one or more of your other children were victimized by your son, it is very certain that he will not be allowed to speak with them for most, if not all, of his stay at Mathom House. You will find that a Youth Counselor will dial your number and establish contact with you before handing over the receiver to your son. There are also rules about how many calls a resident may make and receive, and for how long. There is also a process for approving visits. Your son's therapist will typically approve parents and stepparents to enter Mathom House, and documentation will be provided

for the Youth Counselors to verify this when you visit. Parents or stepparents would only be denied such approval if there is a documented history of abuse or some indication that it would be unsafe or inappropriate for the resident to see that person. You must also contact us to prearrange each visit. Specific instructions about when to visit and how to make such an appointment are in the attached “**Current Mathom Rules**” section. As your child progresses through the level system, he will become eligible for unsupervised passes with family members both on and off-grounds. Some residents are also granted overnight visits at home. Please note that eligibility for such privileges does not guarantee they will occur. They will only occur with the permission of your son’s respective Juvenile Probation Department.

While some or all of these restrictions may seem inconvenient or unnecessary to you as parents, please understand that we are accountable to the community and to your child, to ensure everyone’s safety.

Medical Issues

Mathom House schedules regular appointments to ensure that residents’ medical, dental and vision needs are attended to. We meet all DPW requirements in this regard. Medical expenses are covered through County insurance plans. Mathom House has established ties with local medical practitioners who accept the relevant insurance plans. We have a medical coordinator (Case Manager) who can answer specific questions about your son’s health. We will consider specific requests to use your son’s existing medical practitioners on a case-by-case basis.

The Behavioral Program

Mathom House operates under the principles of accountability and reward. We aim to hold residents accountable for negative behavior and reward positive behavior. We have a daily system of requiring achievement of basic responsibilities, and awarding points for achieving individual behavioral goals. Negative behaviors such as antagonism, name-calling, and threatening remarks are sanctioned with a negative point. Basic responsibilities include specific tasks such as chores, showers, attendance in groups, meals and school. Goals

are specifically designed to target individual areas of behavior in each child. One resident may have a goal discouraging cursing, another hygiene, another accepting redirection. Residents who achieve their basic responsibilities and earn their points move closer to promotion in the level system. The level system is a 5-tiered program, which rewards positive and compliant behavior with increased privileges. New Residents enter the level system after a period of Assessment which emphasizes safety and security while staff becomes acquainted with the resident's personality and behavioral tendencies. The other tiers are Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior. As residents progress and enjoy increased freedoms and privileges, they are also given more responsibility and held to a higher standard. This can be challenging for some residents, but we believe it mirrors life "on the outside". For example a promotion at work may yield higher pay and a nicer office, but also longer hours and a larger job description.

The Activities Program

While at Mathom House your son will have opportunities to engage in a diverse range of activities, spanning sports through thematic presentations. Instruction will be provided in sports such as soccer, football, basketball, volleyball as well as many others. We encourage our residents who have a difficult time displaying adequate athletic proficiency to learn basic skills in a few sporting arenas. Art projects, cooking experiences, book clubs, dramatic performances as well as others are offered through varying types of informed group instruction. The ultimate intent is to increase knowledge but also elevate your son's self-confidence. The activities program will engage your son often and you will no doubt hear your son talk about the soccer game he played or the meal he helped prepare.

The Educational Program

While residing in Mathom House, your son will attend our on site school, Edison Prep. The school is designed to provide an enriching and supportive environment for learning. Students are able to take challenging courses preparing them for graduation and post graduation studies. Education services are provided under a contract with the Bucks County Intermediate Unit. Edison

Prep contracts with Pennsylvania Certified teachers to provide subject instruction in English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Health, Computer Science, and Language Arts. There is a certified Special Education Teacher on staff as well as a certified Reading Teacher and Guidance Counselor. It is possible for students to earn six credits annually. Credits and report cards are forwarded to your child's home school. School districts are required to accept grades for all students and credits toward graduation for students in 9th grade and above. Every encouragement and incentive is provided to residents to succeed academically. Academic effort is a requirement for advancement in the Mathom House level system. For students who are identified as eligible for Special Education services, Edison Prep will implement the current Individualized Education Program (IEP). We try to tailor the specific needs and abilities of students where possible. For example, some parents arrange for tutoring or extra assignments from their school district. Also, special arrangements have been made, in conjunction with the Court, for students to leave the building to sit for GED examinations. SAT's are administered on site when deemed academically appropriate. We have a Director of Education on staff that develops the curriculum and oversees the education program. Students who attain sufficient credits to graduate High School while at Edison Prep receive their diploma from their home school district.

The Treatment Program

Our treatment program is designed in accordance with ethical standards for general psychological practice in Pennsylvania and the field of specialized sex offender treatment. We operate a team approach, which emphasizes close cooperation with the probation department and/or children and youth agency of the referring county. This means that your son's probation officer (or case worker if he is a Dependent child) will be kept informed of your son's treatment progress via telephone contact and written treatment reports. This approach best serves the balanced needs of the child's rehabilitation, the needs of the people he has harmed, and the community at large. Residents attend a Court Hearing between 2 and 4 times per year, and their placement at Mathom House is reviewed. The child's therapist will submit a report assessing his progress, discussing his treatment, and making a recommendation for the future. He or she may recommend continued treatment because he has yet to complete the

program or removal from the program because he is not benefiting from or complying with the program or graduation from Mathom House because he has completed the treatment. It is important to remember that Mathom House can only make recommendations to the court; the court ultimately decides where to place your child, and for how long. It is your son's right to appeal to the court if he disagrees with our opinion about his treatment progress or placement status. You are invited to speak with your child's Probation Officer or seek legal counsel for more insight into the workings of the Juvenile Justice system or your son's legal rights.

You and your son will be asked to sign a Consent for Treatment form which details the limits of confidentiality. This document explains that details of your son's therapy are kept largely confidential but there are specific exceptions to this.

The treatment program at Mathom House is rooted in **group therapy**. Groups are conducted Monday through Thursday for 1½ or 2 hours per session. Groups typically consist of between 4 and 10 residents and 2 or more therapists. Research indicates that group therapy is the most effective way to treat sexual offenders. Sexual offenses involve an abuse of trust and violation of boundaries within a relationship (brother, sister, niece, nephew, friend, peer, stranger) and group therapy challenges the client to relate to others in more healthy, honest, respectful and assertive ways. When he comes to Mathom House, your son will join a therapy group with peers who have committed similar offenses and shared similar struggles of estrangement from family, shame and guilt, denial of offenses, etc. This will be an **Introductory or "Intro" group**. When a new member enters the group, each client states his offenses before the new client is asked to state his. We have found that this sharing of common ground is a source of great relief to the new resident as he hears his peers take responsibility for their offenses. Typically the new member overcomes his shame and embarrassment and shares the details of his offense (s). The Intro group aims to introduce residents to the principles of sex offender therapy, foster more healthy ways of interacting with others, and lay the groundwork for later more difficult and important therapy assignments. This groundwork consists of the resident taking inventory of his personal, family and sexual history. Assignments include timelines, family trees, lists of

positive and negative experiences, and written accounts of offenses. When residents have completed these assignments and shown consistently positive behavior and attitude in the Intro group, they graduate to the **Advanced Group**. This group meets 4 times per week and focuses on **Chain** work and offense-specific assignments also commonly known as **Empathy** assignments. Simply stated, the Chain work challenges residents to figure out why they committed sexual offenses and how to avoid re-offending, and the Empathy work aims to make them care enough about others and themselves so they will not want to re-offend. They learn that each offense involved dozens of steps including conscious decisions, which they fully controlled. They also learn the many harmful effects of sexual abuse for victims and their families. They are encouraged to acknowledge their own abuse (where applicable) and learn how to cope with their emotional wounds in a way that does not harm others.

Individual therapy is an important component of treatment and aims to compliment the group work by providing an important and productive relationship for your son. He should receive coaching from his therapist about how to progress through the behavioral therapeutic levels of the program. Often residents need to learn new skills to interact appropriately with others and get their needs met in ways that respect others and themselves. Their individual therapist will teach and model these skills. He or she will also help your son with his assignments prior to their presentation in group.

Mathom House believes that family involvement in the therapy process is an integral part of treatment which fosters success and healthy living for the resident. Family therapy is offered on at least a bi-weekly basis, which promotes support, effective communication, and an understanding of the resident's sexual offender dynamics. Therapy often focuses on the exploration of family roles and behavioral patterns that contribute to family conflict. Family reunification is often a goal to promote total family wellness and reintegration into the community. This makes it possible for the offender to reconcile with the victim in a safe and supportive, therapeutic environment. Mathom House also offers a bi-weekly Parent Support Group. These meetings offer the parents of our residents the opportunity to share their experiences and reach out for the support of other parents experiencing similar struggles.

Other aspects of treatment include objective measures such as the polygraph and Abel Assessment. These provide the treatment team with a source of reliable information about your son. The **polygraph assessment** (commonly known as a lie detector test) is used to encourage the client to fully disclose his sexual history. When your son has passed a polygraph assessment, he can proceed in treatment with the confidence of the treatment team that he has revealed all relevant information about his sexual history. The aim of this assessment is not to catch a client lying, but to help him prove his honesty. A failed assessment gives us no useful information. We do not ask him to take an assessment until we believe he has a good chance of passing. The polygrapher is a certified trained professional who gives the client every opportunity to make full disclosures in order to pass the assessment. The main areas of inquiry on the polygraph are the client's history of sexual offending and any history of being a victim of abuse. Please note it is emphasized to clients that they need not identify their victims if they disclose new offenses. This would amount to coerced self-incrimination in view of our policy of disclosing treatment information to probation officers. They can reveal more offenses and incorporate them into their treatment without naming their victims. To their credit, clients often reveal the identity of victims at some point, but there is no penalty for not doing so. Similarly, we recognize that clients may not be ready to acknowledge some or all of their abuse history, or to identify someone who has perpetrated against them. Clients who are judged to be deceptive about their victimization history are not penalized in their treatment progress so long as the assessment indicates truthfulness about their offense history.

The **Abel Assessment for sexual interest-2™** is a psychological test that is designed to measure a client's sexual interests and obtain information regarding involvement in a number of problematic sexual behaviors. Some but not all offenders are strongly interested in and aroused to inappropriate sexual scenarios. Most offenders are also interested in appropriate, consensual sex and this assessment helps to confirm this. Treatment procedures exist to reduce inappropriate interests, and residents are strongly encouraged to participate in them where necessary. These assessments require separate written consent from the client and a parent if he is younger than 18. Full explanations are provided and all questions answered at that time.

Your Role in Your Son's Treatment

In our opinion, you will play a crucial role in your son's treatment. You will be a help or a hindrance to his progress depending on your attitude to and relationship with Mathom House. Residents have the best chance to thrive when their parents partner with us by encouraging them to respect the rules and expectations of the program and give them permission to commit to treatment. In return, Mathom House commits to communicate to your son respect for his family and work toward the improvement of family relations wherever possible. It should be noted here that while Mathom House is committed to offender-victim reconciliation we rarely support the return of an offender to the home of his victim(s). Furthermore, **victim-reconciliation** is a process which only begins when certain conditions are met. Parents in a sibling incest situation often disagree with mental health professionals about the timing and duration of this process. These and other issues sometimes strain relations between Mathom House clinicians and parents. We recognize this and pledge to engage with you honestly and respectfully around these difficult issues.

We recognize that your son's placement at a sex-offender facility represents a crisis for your family. Your son may have assaulted one of your children or another family member which in turn victimizes you. You may feel angry about his treatment by the Juvenile Justice System or believe that he has been harshly or unfairly treated. We respect your opinions and feelings. We urge you to partner with us to get your son and your family through this crisis, rather than acting out your anger or sadness in conflict with us. We ask that you visit your son at least twice per month if possible, though we recognize that some of you live too far away or feel divided loyalties because there are victims in the home. Our official visiting times are on weekends but we make all reasonable accommodations for parents' busy schedules. We also invite your attendance at **parent support groups** which occur bi-weekly to provide information and support. Family therapy sessions are strongly encouraged and seen as a crucial part of your son's treatment. These sessions often occur to facilitate exploration of issues that have surfaced in treatment, and to inform parents of **new offense disclosures**. The great majority of residents are not

fully honest about all their inappropriate sexual behaviors when they enter treatment. Be prepared that your son may divulge more offenses with known victims and/or new victims. Some parents apply implied pressure on their son not to admit their offenses. Often a parent's desperate hope that their son is innocent gets communicated as an unspoken instruction not to confess. Sometimes the desire to protect one's child from distress overrides the need to have him held accountable for his actions. Some parents distrust the system and caution their son against speaking about family matters to relative strangers. We assume that as parents you are doing what you think is best for you son and your family. We respect your decisions and only ask that you keep an open mind in your dealings with us. In turn you have the right to expect the same from us.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long will my son be in treatment at Mathom House? Residents typically complete their treatment in 18 months to 2 years. However, some residents need more time to face their issues and meet the requirements of the program. Graduation from the program is dictated by the resident's willingness to examine the difficult therapy issues honestly, and be open to changing his behavior and beliefs. Your son's therapist can keep you updated about his progress and offer tentative estimates of his release. Residents perform well when their parents express hope for a timely completion of treatment, while giving them permission to take whatever time is necessary to get the most out of their treatment.

What happens when he is released? This is ultimately the Judge's decision alone, but he or she typically relies on the opinion of the treatment team and your son's Probation Officer. We recommend a return home if there is nothing to suggest his living at home would unduly jeopardize the welfare of his victim (s), the community or him. As mentioned, it is very unlikely that he would return to a home where victims reside. You should also expect that he will remain on probation for at least a year, and will be required to participate in **Aftercare Treatment**. Duration of probation and aftercare depends upon compliance with both, and the general policies of your County's probation department. Aftercare programs also vary but may include group, individual or

family counseling to support your son in his bid to integrate successfully into his family and community.

Will I be told if he admits more offenses? Or reveals sexual abuse or other trauma? The treatment team is committed to informing you as parents of the significant issues that have affected your son. This includes any history of trauma and sexually inappropriate behavior. We also require your son to inform you of his offense history before we allow him to be supervised by you away from Mathom House. The timing of these disclosures is ultimately at your son's discretion however. Clients sometimes need to process the new disclosures and explore them in therapy before discussing them with their parents. Their privacy as individuals is balanced with our belief that parents deserve to be informed so that they too can deal with the full ramifications of their family history, and more effectively supervise their children.

Will he get more charges or be sent somewhere else if he admits more offenses? This is a possibility, depending on a number of factors. When a client admits more offenses, this is reported to his probation officer. He or she typically feels a responsibility to report past crimes to relevant law enforcement agencies. If your son receives new charges and is adjudicated, the Judge will review his placement. Typically, residents remain at Mathom House because any new sexual offenses serve to reinforce that sex offender treatment is the appropriate disposition. Please note that your son is not pressured to incriminate himself and is always invited to speak with his parents and legal counsel if he is struggling with these issues. They are also reminded that they can reveal more offenses without disclosing identifying information about new victims.

Do we have to be concerned about "Megan's Law"? Currently there is no Megan's Law for Juveniles in Pennsylvania. However, as of February 2004, a law was enacted for the civil commitment of juvenile offenders who are in placement within 90 days of their 19th birthday. Additionally, in July of 2006 the US House and Senate passed legislation, The Sex Offender Notification and Registration Act (SORNA) mandating registration of all sexual offenders which must be substantially implemented by July 2009. Currently, it is unclear as to how the state of Pennsylvania will implement this legislation, possibly

requesting a one year extension before finalizing parameters. It is clear that SORNA will affect juveniles under certain circumstances but unclear as to the specifics. As more information is gathered, Mathom House will make sure to keep you informed as to how SORNA may affect you, your son, and your family.

Why can't my son come home for visits? Your son has committed a crime that is viewed extremely poorly by the community, and research suggests that sexual offenders are at risk to re-offend without treatment and supervision. We view home visits, as appropriate, toward the end of treatment when reintegration into the community is a more pressing goal. Also, if your son victimized someone in your home, we oppose him visiting there out of respect for the feelings and needs of his victims.

Will my son be safe at Mathom House? Mathom House provides an environment where your son's boundaries are respected and protected. While our staff is trained in passive restraint in accordance with DPW requirements, incidents of physically restraining residents are rare. We go to extraordinary and time consuming lengths to safely regulate residents' behavior without physical force. Counselors are held to the highest standards in terms of respecting the physical, sexual and emotional boundaries of the residents. Assaults of residents by their peers are also very rare, and responded to seriously and swiftly. Like your local school or any other youth institution, it is impossible to fully guarantee anyone's safety, but we are proud of our record in this regard.

Is my son's juvenile record sealed? The content of law enforcement records concerning a child may not be released unless the juvenile is 14 years of age or older at the time of the delinquent conduct, and then only if certain offenses are involved. However, you should be aware of current legislation, the Sexual Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA), which may change the privacy of your son's record. SORNA establishes mandatory registration and notification requirements for sex offenders (including juveniles) and other offenders convicted of specific crimes. Currently, how SORNA could affect juveniles is the subject of great debate in courts across the country. It is unclear as to how the act will affect your son when it is ultimately implemented

in Pennsylvania. As information is obtained, we will do our best to educate you on the specifics of SORNA and how your son/family may be affected.

Can my son's record be expunged? The Juvenile Act does make provision for the expungement of Juvenile records under certain circumstances. Ultimately, an attorney can best inform you about the prospects of expungement in your son's case.

Current Mathom House Rules

Visitation

- All residents will be allowed two, two hour in-house visits per weekend.
- All in-house visitation will be scheduled between the hours of 5:00pm and 7:00 pm on Fridays, 9:00am and 11:00am on Saturdays and Sundays, and between 1:00pm and 3:00pm on Sundays. Those who attend Parent Group (every other Tuesday evening) will be able to participate in visitation following the meeting.
- No calls to schedule passes during the above noted days and times are required. Two approved visitors may simply show up at the appropriate times.
- Parents who can not schedule weekend visits because of work commitments may schedule one visit during the week at times that do not conflict with the treatment or academic schedule.
- Special requests may be accommodated for holidays, birthdays, and extenuating circumstances. Such requests require family members to call the **pass line 215-343-7720 ext 301 the preceding Monday by 5:00pm**. A confirmation call will be made by Mathom House to establish the special pass time.
- Once your son is eligible for breakfast and/or unsupervised community passes, such visits/passes must be scheduled using the above noted pass line.
- All visitations will be subject to approval by your son's probation officer.
- All in-house visitors must be at least 18 years of age. IDs will be required.

- Your son’s therapist must approve all visitors.
- There are no phones, cameras, magazines, aluminum cans, or glass bottles allowed during visitation.
- Only West Side residents will be eligible for on-ground and off grounds

Resident’s Level	Pass Type	Location	Time
Sophomore East or West	On-grounds	Mathom House	8:30am– 7:00pm (Or until Dusk) Sat/Sun.
Sophomore West Side	Supervised breakfast*	Restaurant	8:00 am– 9:30 am Sat./Sun.
Junior/ Senior West Side	2 hr unsupervised**	Across the street	Between 8:30 am – 10:00 pm Sat./Sun.
Junior/Senior West Side	4 hr unsupervised**	Variable	Between 8:30 am – 10:00 pm Sat./Sun.
Junior/Senior West Side	6 hr unsupervised**	Variable	Between 8:30 am – 10:00 pm Sat./Sun.
Junior/Senior West Side	8 hr unsupervised**	Variable	Between 8:30 am – 10:00 pm Sat./Sun.
Junior /Senior West Side	Day pass**12hrs	May be eligible to go home	Between 8:30 am – 10:00 pm Sat./Sun.
Junior/Senior	Overnight**	Home	8:30 am Sat.– 5:00 pm Sun.
Senior	Double overnight**	Home	5:00 pm Fri.– 10:00 pm Sun.

visitation/ passes.

Off ground visitation:

* Breakfast Pass – Please arrive at Mathom House at 7:50 am. Your son will be transported by Mathom House staff to a local restaurant. Once there, you will sit at a private table with him and will be responsible for co-supervising him. Please be prepared to pay for anything ordered by you or your son.

**Before a resident will be allowed to have an unsupervised pass he must be in the advanced group, have completed his precursors, and have had a disclosure meeting with his parent.

** Bucks County residents need court orders for supervised and unsupervised passes.

Phone Calls

Your son will be allowed to make and receive phone calls while at Mathom House from/to persons approved by his therapist. Appropriate contacts may include family members, relatives, and adult friends of the family. A Mathom House Supervisor will be designated to coordinate the maintenance of the East and West phone logs. Your son will request the addition or deletion of a phone contact to the designated Supervisor. The primary therapist will consider whether the contact between him and the proposed contact may cause harm or offense to anyone involved. He will be allowed three 15-minute incoming phone calls and three 10-minute outgoing phone calls per week. Outgoing phone calls may be made from 12:00 pm until his evening QT Monday through Friday, and from 8:30 am until his evening QT on weekends and holidays. Incoming phone calls will be received from 3:45 pm until evening QT Monday through Friday, and from 8:30 am until evening QT on weekends and holidays.

Snacks

Your son will be allowed personal snack items while living on the West Side of Mathom House. All food items must be single serve portions and no glass or aluminum cans are allowed into the building. Because of limited storage space your son may only receive more items when he has room in his snack bin. Overflow snack items will be distributed to other residents.

Mail

Your son will be able to send and receive mail while at Mathom House.

Personal Belongings

To help control clutter and to create incentives, personal belongings are limited at Mathom House. With each advancement in the level

system there is the opportunity to have more personal belongings. All personal items will be tracked and your son may have to send an item home in order to get an additional one. Personal hygiene items do not count as personal items. Your son will need to submit a request form for the items he would like brought in. Items that have not been approved by a supervisor will be confiscated. All items may be brought to Mathom House during weekend visitation on the **first weekend of the month**.

Failure to Earn Credit (“Boxed”)

While living on the West Side your son will have basic responsibilities to complete, i.e., cleaning his room, doing a chore. If he completes the task up to the standards established for his level he will earn credit for that responsibility. If he does not, he will earn a zero. The standards become more rigorous as his level advances. Less is expected from an assessment than from a senior. Your son will be “boxed” for any shift that he has earned at least one zero. Being boxed means that your son will not be able to leave the building, go into the gym for free time, or spend his credits.

Outings

While at Mathom House, your son may be eligible to participate in one-on-one and group outings. Once he moves to the West Side and earns the freshman level (see court orders below) he will be eligible for one-on-one trips, which are trips that include only your son and at least one Mathom House staff. Residents at the sophomore level are eligible for group trips. A group trip includes more than one resident.

Court Orders

Bucks County residents require court orders before they are allowed off-grounds with staff or parents. Separate court orders are required for one-on-one trips, group trips, and before your son will be eligible for off-grounds passes.

Level System

The Mathom House level systems, the **Cumulative Point System** used on the East Side, and the **Behavior Modification System** used on the West Side feature privileges and behavioral expectations. In both systems, each level builds on the last. The purpose is to encourage residents to behave in a non-abusive, socially appropriate manner. Each resident carries a book that includes a list of basic responsibilities (“basics”) for each day as well as a set of behavioral requirements (“goals”) to meet.

Residents begin the program as Assessments. On this level residents are expected to follow basic house safety rules, and they will be prompted to interact respectfully with others. Residents are allowed only grooming and clothing necessities and may have one personal item. (See room content list). When your son earns 285 points he will automatically earn Freshman level.

As Freshmen, residents are expected to follow house safety rules and respectfully accept directives and feedback of others. Residents may add a radio, an alarm clock and three personal items to their rooms. When your son earns 570 points he will be eligible to move to the Sophomore level.

As Sophomores, residents are expected to be proactive and interact positively with others. At this level residents are expected to follow house rules without reminders. Sophomores can add five personal items and may also have a gameboy in their room. At this stage he will begin the Behavior Modification System if he is residing on the West Side. After six successful weeks of earning 85% of weekly basics and goals, residents are eligible for the Junior level. Should he still be residing on the East Side, your son will be eligible for Junior level once he earns 579 points.

Mathom House Juniors are expected to actively participate in the smooth running of daily activities. They may add five personal items to their rooms and they may also have a video game system in their room. After six successful weeks they are eligible for the Senior level.

As Seniors, residents are expected to positively lead the community through daily activities. They may add five additional items to their rooms as well as a television and musical instrument.

General Rules

- Verbal abuse, name calling, and sexual innuendos will not be tolerated.
- Threatening behavior will not be tolerated.
- No physical contact, this includes horseplay.
- Residents must remain one arm's length away from each other.
- No loitering in front of doorways.
- Residents may not enter each other's bedrooms.
- Residents must remain in staff eyesight.
- Residents must knock and wait to be addressed before exiting bedrooms.
- No sharing items between residents (i.e. food, clothing, CDs).
- No cursing.
- Books must be signed within one hour after each activity.

Dress Code

- Shoes and socks must be worn at all times.
- Sleeved shirts must be worn at all times (sleeveless shirts are permitted in the gym).
- Pajamas or shorts and a shirt must be worn to bed (no pajamas on the floor).
- No clothing that is culturally or sexually inappropriate will be permitted. Additionally, clothing with drug references, racial epithets, or sexual stereotypes will be disallowed.
- Residents must wear clean, intact, seasonally appropriate clothing.
- No boxer shorts are permitted.

Cafeteria

- Residents must keep hands above the table.
- Residents must go directly to their seats upon entering the cafeteria.
- Residents must ask permission from youth counselor in the "hot seat" to get up from their seat.
- Residents may not take food or beverages from the cafeteria without permission.
- Residents must sit in their assigned seats.

- There is no talking between tables.
- Only 4 residents may be up from their seats at one time.

Showers/Hygiene

- Only one resident is allowed in the shower room at a time unless a youth counselor is watching “shot-gun.”
- Evening showers must be completed 15 minutes before residents are due to go into their room for the night.
- Full clothing must be worn from the shower; this includes shoes and socks.
- Residents must dress and disrobe in the shower stall.
- Residents must brush teeth after meals and show youth counselors.
- Residents must have a clean appearance.
- Residents must present hygiene items before entering the shower stall.

Gym

- There is no street clothing allowed in the gym.
- No jewelry is permitted in the gym.

Television

- Residents may not watch talk shows, soap operas, wrestling or any other show staff deem inappropriate.
- There is no television watching until after 5:00 pm.
- Televisions may not be watched during QT.
- Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors may rent televisions.
- Sophomores may rent televisions for one hour, Juniors may rent a television for one and a half hours, and Seniors may rent for a shift.
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Rooms

- Residents may not loiter in front of bedroom doorways.
- Residents may never enter another resident’s bedroom.
- Residents must have their doors closed when in their rooms.
- Residents must have their windows (outside and door) covered when changing or using the bathroom.

Quiet Time

- Residents will be in their rooms for Q.T. unless staff bring them out for chores or residents have made prior arrangements to do a constructive activity in a group area.
- Residents will take care of all needs before Q.T.
- Residents may knock to ask for help with homework, or if they wish to speak with a counselor about an issue. Knocks to “get” things are prohibited.
- There is no television watching, electronic games, or sleeping during Q.T.
- Seniors may only “buyout” of Q.T. if they are not boxed and have completed all homework.

Snack

- Personal snacks will be pre-packaged, single serving only.
- Residents will be allowed one serving of personal snack or one serving of the Mathom House snack.
- There are no glass bottles or aluminum cans allowed in the cafeteria.
- There is no sharing of snacks.

Chores

- AM chores must be completed by 11:45.

Phone Calls

- Counselors will answer and dial all outgoing calls.
- Seniors may answer incoming calls.
- No phone calls will be made after 9:45pm.