



Frequently Asked Questions for Youth

- 1. How long will I have to remain in placement?** The average length of stay in a residential program is 6 to 7 months, and the remainder of your time is spent on aftercare. Ultimately, your stay will depend on your adjustment and behavior.
- 2. Where will I sleep while I am in a residential program?** The residential programs are home-like settings. Some have individual rooms while others have dorm-style sleeping.
- 3. Will I be able to come and go while I am in a residential program?** No. You will not be allowed to leave the non-secure placement residence without permission. The Close to Home residential program staff will determine when you are eligible to leave the program.
- 4. Can I go home, or will I be able to receive visits or phone calls while I am in a residential program?** You will be given the opportunity to receive home passes within 30 to 60 days after arriving at the residential program if you are in an NSP level of placement. All Close to Home residential programs allow for weekly phone calls and visits from approved callers/visitors provided by your family.

5. Can I wear my own clothes or have a cellphone while in the program? Each residential program follows a dress code that will be explained to you at the Transition meeting. Cellphones are prohibited in the program and are considered contraband. Contraband refers to items that are not allowed because they might be unsafe or used inappropriately.

6. Will I have a say in what residential program I will go to? You will be interviewed by an Intake and Assessment Specialist and your ideas will be taken into consideration. There are many factors that go into choosing a placement, therefore you are not guaranteed to be placed in your home borough or the placement of your choice.

7. Who can I talk to if I have a problem with the program? Your assigned Placement and Permanency Specialist (PPS) is available to respond to any questions or concerns you may have. You can also contact the Office of the Ombudsman at (888) 676-9421 or the ACS Parents' or Children's Helpline, at (212) 676-9421.

8. What's the difference between LSP and NSP group homes? A key component of the NSP group homes is the lack of secure perimeter hardware such as barbed wire fences. Typically, each residence houses 12 or fewer youth, and is designed to look and feel like a home environment. While in an NSP program, youth typically attend school taught by DOE teachers in a standalone building. LSP group homes have more restrictive security features, such as fencing and locked doors managed by a control room to ensure the safety of residents, program staff, and local communities. Young people who are placed in an LSP setting also receive school & all their services directly onsite.

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ACS Office of Advocacy: (212) 676-9421
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www1.nyc.gov/site/acs/justice/close-home.page

NYC Children

Close to Home

A Guide for
Families & Young People
Ordered to Placement
with ACS Close to Home



NYC Children

Welcome to Close to Home

Close to Home allows young people who are found to be responsible in Family Court of committing a delinquent act to receive placement services in a program in or close to the communities where they live. Placement is a combination of time in a residential program and time in the community (on aftercare) with specialized services and monitoring.

While in placement, youth will:

- Attend school located in a stand-alone building or at your facility
- Work toward promotion into/from middle school or earn academic credits that count towards a high school diploma
- Have opportunities to communicate with your family and attorney
- Receive medical, mental health, and/or substance abuse services as needed
- Participate in positive programming and activities

Levels of Placements:

Close to Home has two types of residential placements: Non-Secure Placement (NSP) and Limited Secure Placement (LSP). Youth will be placed in NSP or LSP based on their court order. Some youth receive orders that are Unspecified, giving the Close to Home program the ability to place youth in either level of care based on various factors that are considered, including their behavior in detention.

Potential Timeline of Placements:

Youth's length of stay in placement will be determined by the judge & their behavior. For example, a 12 month sentence it may look like:

Months 1-2	Months 3-6	Months 7-12
Full-time residential care	Residential care with home passes	Living in community on aftercare

Words You Will Hear



Intake: Once a Family Court judge has given an order for you to be placed with Close to Home, an ACS Intake and Assessment Specialist will gather information about you from different sources, interview you and your family to make sure the information is accurate, and review all of the information, and match you to a provider that can best meet your needs.

Transition Meeting: Once a decision has been made about which residential program you will be placed in, a meeting is held with you and your family, the Close to Home provider, and the PPS to discuss the placement decision, overview of the program, expectations and address any questions.

Placement and Permanency Specialist (PPS): Each young person in placement is assigned an ACS PPS. The PPS will work with you during placement as well as the Close to Home residential program staff, your family members, community-based programs, and schools to help you stay on track and reach your goals.

Family Team Conference (FTC): While in Close to Home youth and families will attend various FTCs beginning with the Transition Meeting, followed by the

Initial, Comprehensive, Release, Community and Graduation conferences. In the event that concerns arise while in Close to Home an Elevated Risk Conference (ERC) can be requested to address them. FTCs are designed to allow for youth & family's voices to be heard in the planning process.

Home Passes/Community Passes: While in residential care, with good behavior, youth can earn passes for weekends or special events to stay with their families or guardians.

Aftercare: There is a period while in the Close to Home program where youth will return to the community to complete the program. During this time, youth will continue to be monitored by PPS and receive wraparound services until they graduate from the Close to Home program.

Extension of Placement (EOP): An EOP is a court proceeding that extends the amount of time a young person will spend in placement for up to 12 months.

Absent Without Official Consent (AWOC): A young person is considered to be AWOC

when they leave the program or the presence of a supervising adult without permission or fail to return to the residence from an authorized visit at the required time.

Release Date: The date that a young person moves from a residential program to aftercare in the community.

Modification: A modification is when a Family Court judge changes a young person's placement order and transfers the young person to a more restrictive setting.

Revocation: A revocation occurs when a youth, who is on aftercare, does not abide by the Conditions of Release and Family Court agrees for youth to return to residential placement.

Youth Leadership Council: A group of young people currently and formerly involved with the child welfare and juvenile justice system participating in planning, policy development, and decision-making for ACS. For more information, please email: YLC@acs.nyc.gov.