



Fred Victor Centre Women's Hostel

Trans-gendered / Transsexual Policy

Fred Victor Centre Women's Hostel serves all individuals who present for intake that identify as women. All individuals are to be admitted based on the sex/gender by which they themselves identify they are living full-time - not by genital designation – as it is specific to the sex/gender by which this hostel is mandated to serve.

For example: a transsexual woman (male-to-female) presents for intake and is to be admitted regardless of whether or not she has received sex reassignment surgeries of any kind. One exception only is that for female-to-male trans people (or “FTMs”) must be admitted if that potential resident feels that they simply are not safe at a men's facility or need to access services typically associated with women's hostels (such as anti-violence programs, etc.) or both. This should be done regardless of how far along the potential resident may be in their transition.

The hostel is committed to on-going resident development and awareness workshops/activities on the needs, issues, and realities of TS/TG people from trainers endorsed by the City of Toronto.

Procedure

- Staff may not ask for medical specifics of a trans resident's transition outside of what is asked of all residents (ie: medications that are to be kept at the administration counter, specific physical and mental health needs, etc.).
- Intake based on the length and extent of a potential TS/TG resident's transition is to be considered inappropriate.
- Intake based on a potential TS/TG resident's physical appearance or ability to “pass” as their identified sex/gender is to be considered inappropriate.

- Staff must base discharges, service restrictions, and warnings following any incidents involving trans residents on individual behaviour only.
- Staff who have not completed at least initial staff development on TS/TG issues must submit all incident reports involving trans residents to the executive director whereby any or all decisions can be reversed.
- TS/TG individuals presenting for intake are not to be turned away or referred to another hostel unless: (i) the hostel is at capacity and has reported being so to the Street Helpline, (ii) the individual is currently banned from that specific facility.

Staff & Resident development

All staff (full-time, part-time, and casual) must take part in ongoing staff development on the needs, issues, and realities of TS/TG people from a City of Toronto endorsed agency providing the trainings.