



Ronald McDonald House Greater Fort Worth Eligibility Requirements

Families eligible to stay with us must meet the following guidelines for each category:

Age: Children aged 21 or younger receiving medical treatment (inpatient or outpatient) at Cook Children's Medical Center or other area hospitals are eligible. *If the patient has a documented developmental disability and they are fully dependent on another adult for care, please reach out to our team to ask about exceptions.

Distance: Families must live more than 40 miles away from the Ronald McDonald House of Fort Worth.

Appointments:

Type: Appointment types that qualify for a room in our House fall under the specialized care category.

* Ancillary care appointments do not qualify. ** Social workers from our associated hospital partners will determine if appointments qualify as specialty care and are therefore eligible for a room in our House after applications are submitted.

Inpatient: Families with a child that is inpatient are eligible to stay.

Outpatient frequency: For all outpatient visits, patients must have at least two specialized care appointments that are on at least two different days of the seven-day week. *Exceptions may be approved on a case-by-case basis.

- **Short-term:** Stays of 4 nights or less must include at least one specialty care appointment, and the length of stay must coincide with the appointment dates. In general, families are expected to check in no more than one day prior to their appointment and check out no later than one day after.
- **Room use:** Upon checking in, families must use their room on a daily basis.

*Specialty care appointments are with medical care that requires the provider to have specialized training. This includes cardiology, oncology, orthopedics, etc. Required specialized care appointments are not available near the patient's home.

**Ancillary appointments supplement and support primary medical care. Ancillary appointments include such areas as x-rays, physical therapy, and mental health. Most ancillary care can be provided near where the patient lives. Cook Children's will make this determination upon review of the patient's appointments and condition.

Referral to Stay:

- Both new and returning families must be referred to RMHFW by a hospital social worker.
- A completed referral form and background check consent form must be received prior to the date needed.
- Each adult staying at the House must have a current official government photo id and must wear a wristband for the entire length of stay, which will be issued upon check-in.
- No more than 5 people per room at a time.

- While not required, RMHFW has a suggested nightly room contribution of \$20.
- Failure to follow onsite guidelines could result in a family being asked to leave and no longer qualify for future RMHFW Services.
- See “RMHFW House Guideline Overview”
- A family may be asked to leave the House anytime at the discretion of the Chief Operating Officer.

Check-out:

- If inpatient: Families are asked to check out within 24 hours after discharge.
- If outpatient: Families are asked to check out within 24 hours of their last appointment, should they no longer have more than 2 specialized appointments scheduled weekly.
- All “RMHFW Check-out List” items must be completed before leaving property. Failure to do so may restrict a family’s future ability to stay.

Restrictions & Additional Requirements:

- Families presently involved in a case with Child Protective Services may not stay at the House, nor may families whose parental/visitation rights are in question.
- Families with a patient participating in a partial hospitalization program (PHP) or who are being seen for disruptive behavioral issues may not qualify to stay at RMHFW. Please contact us for more information and exceptions.
- If any family member has been diagnosed with a communicable disease while staying at the House, or if any visitor is believed to have exposed residents at the House to such a disease, it is most important to notify one of the staff members immediately. At the discretion of our Chief Executive Officer and /or Chief Operating Officer, it may become necessary for the family to leave the Ronald McDonald House.
- All children under the age of 18 who stay at the Ronald McDonald House must be accompanied by a legal guardian or family member 25 years or older.
- If either or both parents are under the age of 18 and unmarried, only one parent may stay and must be accompanied by his or her parent/guardian.
- If either or both parent is under the age of 18 and married, a marriage license is required to stay.
- Pregnant women with high-risk pregnancies may stay at the House but must have an adult caregiver with them, regardless of the expectant mother’s age.

For any exceptions, please contact the House Relations Manager at (817)809-8880.