

## Transitional Covenant Agreement

(Between Recently Released Members of God's Family & Spirit House Ministries, Inc.)

Jesus Christ has laid it upon the hearts of the leadership of Spirit House Ministries Inc. to be involved at a local level with women formerly incarcerated in the Williamson County Jail and/or Texas Department of Criminal Justice. This ministry revolves around 3 key foundational goals:

1. Reconciliation to God through genuine faith in Jesus Christ; followed by a demonstration of growth and a changed life through Christ.
2. Reconciliation, where possible and appropriate, to their families
3. Reconciliation to the community upon their release from prison as healthy and productive citizens.

It is our desire that these women find victory in their lives and victory over the addictions and problems that have caused their initial or ongoing incarceration. We believe victory can only be achieved in the long term by an exchanged life through the abiding presence of Jesus Christ. It is our desire to work with selected women to achieve each of these goals.

Goal # 1:

Reconciliation to God through Christ is the foundation upon which all else rests. We believe that genuine and demonstrated repentance along with a growing faith and commitment to the Lordship of Christ in the individual's life is of primary importance.

We will encourage and assist in this growth process from the time of incarceration until release if individual offenders have demonstrated ongoing commitment to their growth as believers within the Texas prison system.

Goal #2:

We desire that where possible offenders be reunited with their children and their families. We also recognize that in some cases families are so dysfunctional and contribute so much to the offender's past problems that this may not be feasible.

However, where possible we desire fathers and mothers to be appropriately reunited with their children in order to establish a godly home in which their children can grow in an atmosphere of love and security.

Goal 3 #:

Within the limits of our resources and where we believe individuals have demonstrated the changes necessary to live a sober and clean life, we will do what we can to help them re-enter this community and the free world. Where the individual(s) are invited to be a part of Spirit House Ministries, we want to establish some guidelines.

While living under the authority and in the facilities provided by Spirit House Ministries, we believe a certain level of accountability is appropriate. Therefore, we expect the following general guidelines to apply:

1. If the individual is on any kind of probationary status, she is expected to fully comply with the terms and conditions of their probation. She is required to sign all disclosure forms making communication between probation/parole officers and designated Spirit House Ministries staff.
2. No tobacco products, drugs, or alcoholic beverages are permitted at any time. This includes periods away from Spirit House Ministries housing visiting friends or relatives.
3. The individual will keep Spirit House Ministries leadership informed of any prescription drugs that are needed and the reason for their use. The Spirit House Ministries designated staff will be informed of any changes.
4. Involvement in Ministries of Spirit House Ministries:
  - a. Faithful attendance at Sunday worship services
  - b. Faithful attendance at Celebrate Recovery meetings and working with your assigned mentor on the 12 steps/workbooks
  - c. Participation in various service opportunities
  - d. Faithful attendance in other Spirit House Ministries programs as required
  - e. Active participation in the Spirit House Ministries Prison Ministry
5. If living in a Spirit House Ministries provided apartment/home, the apartment/home will be kept immaculately clean, in neat order, in good repair and available for periodic on-site inspection by the Spirit House Ministries staff.
6. The Spirit House Ministries apartment/home is expected to be used by the individual(s) for approximately 6 months but no longer than 2 years. We would expect by then they would be financially stable and able to move into their own living quarters, freeing the apartment/home for another individual's use. No unauthorized person is allowed to live in Spirit House Ministries housing at any time.
7. Any written or on-going contacts with individuals from prison or past friends that have negatively influenced the individual are strictly prohibited. Under no circumstance are any individuals from their past destructive life to be invited into the Spirit House Ministries provided apartment/home facilities. Correspondence with Christian inmate friends is allowed and encourage. We would hope you will grow in faith to such a degree that you begin discipling others as well. Any questions or concerns about this should be discussed with the Spirit House Ministries staff.
8. The individual(s) will be subject to random drug testing.

- 9.** Residents are not permitted to entertain members of the opposite sex in the Spirit House Ministries apartment/home at any time without prior approval, guests should expect to meet staff and be available for conversation. No overnight guests at all without permission of the Spirit House Ministries staff. Any overnight stays outside of Spirit House Ministries housing must have prior written approval by Spirit House Ministries staff.
- 10.** No pets are allowed in the apartment/home.
- 11.** A copy of the apartment inventory will be left in the apartment/home so each occupant knows what is to remain in the apartment/home as she accumulates her own personal effects prior to moving into her own living quarters. Other than normal wear and tear, the inventory items are to remain in the apartment for the next occupants.
- 12.** The house phone is available for personal and business use but should be limited to 10 minutes per call. This should be for contact with immediate family only – no old friends, girlfriends or boyfriends, or past associates should be contacted. You have asked that your life be transformed, therefore it is appropriate that some old relationships will not make it to your new future. Because you have full access to a phone, no cell phones are allowed unless approved by Spirit House Ministries. Any costs associated with an approved cell phone will be the responsibility of the resident and would come only after a successful period of support contribution to the ministry housing program is upheld.
- 13.** All residents should dress modestly and appropriate to your new or renewed faith. No short shorts, mini-skirts, clothing that exposes excessive cleavage or is provocative in nature. If you find your old clothing is now not appropriate, staff will discuss options with you. T-shirts and other clothing with tobacco, beer, music groups and other symbols or slogans are prohibited. Any clothing with symbols or slogans must be approved by Spirit House Ministries staff.
- 14.** Visits by family and friends must be approved by Spirit House Ministries staff prior to the event. This housing unit is the home to several others and therefore the safety and feeling of serenity must be maintained for everyone who resides within the home. You are in this home because returning to your previous home was not an option for you. Therefore it is understood that those past relationships probably are also not an option for you. Should you meet someone who is seeking your friendship at this time, it is understood that they are also to abide by the rules you are living under, this includes limited visitation and only with prior staff approval even for participation in bible studies and other faith based events. Any new relationships should be discussed and disclosed to your mentor. She will discuss any concerns and changes with a staff member, if needed.

**15.** Each student is required to do regular maintenance and chores in the household. You should accept your assignments as adults and realize that it is part of the privilege of being in our housing program. Duties could include yard maintenance, cleaning, painting, organizing of household, cooking, laundry and other tasks that are a normal part of daily living. You may also be required to assist in ministry projects as a normal part of your day.

**16.** Always be mindful that you came to us or accepted our invitation for help. You accepted the invitation in your time of need and we were happy and joyful to extend it. In that way, you have submitted yourself to our programs which are developed for your safety, security and growth as a child of God and a returning member of society. Please participate with sincerity, integrity and a cooperative spirit. If the program is not to your liking, you are always free to leave. If you choose to stay, you are doing so with the understanding that the rules are set forth with purpose and intent. The staff is always available to help you in this transition. Please take advantage of their counsel and experience. None of these rules were laid down without thought, prayer or solid reasoning.

This Agreement is entered into without obligation and may be terminated by either party with or without cause. Should a resident choose to terminate this contract, it is understood that they will be expected to move out of the housing within 48 hours at their own expense. There is expected to be a very high level of integrity and trust, and the goals are for the mutual growth and benefit of all individuals involved.

Failure to comply with any of these guidelines may result in termination of this agreement and removal from the Spirit House Ministries housing program. Our goals are for all individuals to move on with their lives into fully independent living as quickly as possible.

By signing this Agreement, you signify that you understand and are willing to abide by the rules herein described. Additionally, you have read and received a copy of the apartment/home inventory and apartment/house keys as shown below.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spirit House Ministries Director

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Keys: \_\_\_\_\_ Staff

Apartment Inventory: \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Phone Number of Probation/Parole Officer (if applicable):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_