



# YOUNG BEARS LODGE



Parent & Care Giver  
Information Guide

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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## Intake Process:

*Please read through this document carefully & review it with the youth in your care*

During the intake process we ask that the legal guardian be present with the youth for the transition. If that is unable to happen, it will be planned ahead of time with the Intake and Residential Care Counsellor and someone else will accompany the youth to their intake.

All of our youth are given an intake date to move in on. They are asked to come with a **maximum of one bag** of their belongings.

During the intake process all the legal papers and required signatures are collected, the program orientation takes place, and we discuss the planning for transition and what that is going to look like for the individual coming into the program.

Guardians are asked to provide the following for health care needs if possible:

- Youth's Status number
- Health coverage information
- Youth's SIN number for job training purposes through our agency
- An early exit plan & transition plan, with contacts that are available to the Young Bears Lodge staff during emergencies or critical response

When youth arrive they will be given a new YBL sweat suit to wear (and keep) and are required to do a wash and change procedure for bed bug precautions. During that time all youth will have their belongings checked. They will be required to hand over their cellphones, or send them home with their caregivers, then staff will check for any items that are not allowed to be in possession of the youth such as:

- Cellphones, razors, wallets, lighters, cigarettes, and personal electronics (which will all be stored in youth's locker.)
- Contraband (i.e., weapons, drug paraphernalia, etc.) are not allowed on site.

If your youth is a smoker they are allowed to smoke cigarettes at the program in designated smoking areas. However, we ask that the youth have an agreement with their caregivers to provide cigarettes for them as staff at Young Bears Lodge are not allowed to give, buy or facilitate the access to tobacco products.

If this is unable to happen we would have a discussion with youth and their caregiver, as we can also offer access to our nurse practitioner at UNYA to set youth up with a nicotine replacements program during their stay, if everyone is in agreement to do so.

Our Intake and Residential Care Counsellor does everything to ease the journey into our program, and making sure both care giver and youth have all this information before arriving.



## Important information to know:

### Youth Rules and Responsibilities

Outlined are the Rules and Responsibilities of the youth that participate in our program.

**Physical Contact** – Touching that is sexual, violent, or overly intimate (for example, kissing) is not allowed. Some touching (such as hugging, high fiving) is okay during ceremonies, with family, and between consenting parties. Physical contact without consent is not permitted at any time.

**Off-limits Spaces** – Youth are not allowed in other youths' bedrooms. Youth are only allowed to spend time on the main floor and the floor that your bedroom is on, unless you are with staff (for example if your room is on top floor, youth are only allowed in the basement if staff are with them)!

**Youth supervised at all times** – YBL is responsible for youth at all times. If youth are out of sight or go missing on the staff, the YBL staff will have to report them to police as a Missing Person immediately; and we are obligated at any hour to contact their emergency contact.

**Possession or Use of Alcohol and/or Drugs** – Is not allowed at YBL at any time.

**Cigarettes/Smoking** – Smoking at the lodge must be done outside YBL in the Smoke Pit. Cigarettes and lighters/matches are kept in youth lockers, and must be signed out. Staff will provide cigarettes to youth one at a time.

**Theft** – If personal or YBL program item(s) goes missing YBL staff may decide to check youth's rooms. If a missing item is found in the house or in your bedroom it will be given back to the owner. In a theft situation, YBL staff will choose how to handle it.

**Prohibited Items** – Drug related items, Alcohol/Drugs, Pornography, Weapons and/or sharp objects are not allowed at YBL at any time. If YBL staff has reason to believe that any of these things are on site, they may choose to search youths bedroom, personal items (bags etc.), or your pockets.

**Items to be stored in YBL Office** – Portable Electronics, Laptops, Cellphones, Mouthwash, and Aerosol cans (body sprays/hairspray etc.), nail clippers, tweezers, and similar items will be stored in the YBL office, for youth to use at certain times. Youth must ask staff to sign an item out, and once youth use it, youth must return it to staff to sign back into your locker for future use. *Youth can only use their personal electronics when out for the day with one of their approved contacts. You are allowed MP3 players & iPods that do not connect to Wi-Fi at all times. If you don't have one, one may be given to you.*

**Sexual Exploitation/Recruitment** – Is strictly not allowed at YBL. If staff suspects sexual exploitation/recruitment at YBL the person involved will be asked to leave immediately and police may be notified if appropriate. Youth are not allowed to recruit any unsafe or illegal activities outside or inside of the lodge while at YBL.



**Respect for others-** It is expected that everyone at the lodge be treated with respect and that no hateful, aggressive, derogatory, racist, sexist, and/or homophobic language be used.

**Conflict Mediation-** If youth are having conflict with other participants we strongly encourage problem solving amongst the youth; and allow and create space for positive conflict resolution.

**Cleanliness-** We ask that the youth participants do their very best to maintain cleanliness and to keep their spaces tidy if they are able to.

**Guest/visitors-** Of course we can always plan for guests and visitors to come to the lodge. But as a program we make prior arrangements for visits and guests to come to the program.

**Bed Bug Prevention-** All of our youth are responsible for cooperating with the wash and laundry procedure. This procedure takes place during initial intake, and anytime a youth goes out overnight on an approved visit, or they AWOL and return.

**Person, Stuff and/or Room Searches-** We may conduct random room searches which both youth and care givers are made aware of. This is to check for any hazardous or prohibited items.

**Bed/Quiet Time-** We understand sleeping for youth adults can be challenging, but we ask that all our participants are in their bedrooms enjoying quiet time if they are not ready to sleep by 10:30 pm on weekdays and 11pm on weekends and holidays; as to not disrupt other participants.

### **Approved Contacts and Visits**

During intake there is an approved contact and visitor list put together with youth and care giver. This makes up a list of individuals that our team at Young Bears Lodge can receive phone calls from and share necessary information with regarding the care of the youth. And also, the only individuals that can be approved for pre-arranged visits. If anyone else calls, or appears at our program we cannot confirm or deny they participate here at Young Bears Lodge.

Youth can go on day visits or on over nights with approved contacts. The visits are always confirmed with primary caregiver and need to be pre-arranged when absolutely possible. When the youth goes on a day pass or an overnight with an approved contact. The approved contact signing the youth out, must be over the age of 19, and be able to physically sign our supervision agreement. They must also be able to return the youth and again physically sign the supervision agreement upon return of the participant.

### **Ceremonies/Graduations**

Our program as stated is designed to be up to a 4 month program, depending on the goals set out by youth. Each month is a graduation phase for the youth, and they can decide if they wish to continue. Each month the youth works towards a medicine for their bundle and towards a ceremony of their choosing. The youth's supports, and approved contacts/guests are strongly encouraged to attend the ceremonies that are planned to witness the youth complete their phase. Our Cultural Counsellor plans all of the ceremonies and our team at Young Bears Lodge ensures that the guests the youth wishes to invite are given appropriate information to participate leading up to ceremonies.

## **Family Nights**

At least once a month, we facilitate and host a family night. The family that youth wish to host is invited to spend an evening and visit all together, when safe and appropriate.

## **Continuity in Care**

As a team at Young Bears Lodge we are strengthened by our community, and want our youth participants to be strengthened by their community as well. During their time with our program, our Clinical Counsellor, Cultural Counsellor, and Intake and Residential Care Counsellor work alongside the youth to build a transition plan that is going to fit their needs and goals for their journey back home. The youth can choose to include their caregivers during this process but by the end of their identified phase, they will have a transition plan and after care plan in place. As caregivers we want to offer yourself, and family or other supports tools as well. If the youth has given us permission to share what has been working for them here with you, we like to communicate those things. As a program we stay in contact with the youth participants even after they graduate from us for support and follow up. We encourage family, care givers and supports to access our team if they require anything at all from us, as we will do our best to make space for your needs as well.

During your youths last 2 weeks of programming there is a lot of communication that takes place in preparation to transition home. We are in contact with yourself as the care giver to ensure that you have an understanding of their experience, what their plans are moving forward, who their supports are, and ensuring their travel plans to get home are solid and organized. It is very common that you are asked to attend transition/case management meetings during this time to support the youth in their journey home.

## **Program Breaks**

Sometimes we ask our youth to take a break from the program and stay at a guardian or caregivers homes (if local and available) or an emergency shelter/safe house in order to maintain an environment where the rest of Young Bears Lodge community can continue focusing on their goals. Usually these breaks are short term, 1-2 nights simply to allow for house dynamics to settle. Occasionally the breaks can be longer 1-2 weeks if a youth needs time to decide if they want to continue the program or if the team needs time to review their journey with us. We will always let the youth and their placement know how long the break is planned for.

### **Why would we ask a youth to take a break?**

We understand that having setbacks/relapses such as AWOLS, breaking program rules, and using substances are a part of recovery process, and will usually happen with youth who are in our program. These alone are not reason for us to discharge a youth. We are committed to meeting youth where they are at and supporting them as best we can in the whole process. Program Breaks help us provide that care to each individual youth while still providing safety and stability for the rest of Young Bears Lodge Community.



### **Times When Young Bears Lodge will contact the primary care giver**

Young Bears Lodge has an obligation to youth and caregivers to provide them with the best care possible. There are emergency situations that Young Bears Lodge will be obligated to update and contact the primary care giver. These times include the following:

- **AWOL** (Away without leave); because we are a 24/7 supervision program any time the youth leaves here without a supervision order signed and approved they are considered AWOL. As a program to ensure the safety of your youth we need to contact primary caregiver **OR** MCFD Afterhours (if and only there is Ministry involvement), and report the youth missing to Vancouver police. These updates can happen at any hour of the day. Young Bears Lodge staff will also update primary care giver upon return of the youth and their safety.
- **Health emergencies**; If your youth needs to be transported to hospital for medical care, primary care givers will be notified immediately.
- **Other critical incidents** involving police, fire or ambulance.

### **Vancouver Coastal Health Licensing information**

Young Bears Lodge is a licensed facility through Vancouver Coastal Health. The Licensing Office appreciates your feedback. Should you have any compliments or complaints to report, you may contact the following.

**Patient Care Quality Office at 1-877-993-9199**

**Or**

**Licensing Office at 604-675-3800**





## Contact Information

Contact us at 604-322-7577

Intake and Residential Care Counsellor: [ybl.intake@unya.bc.ca](mailto:ybl.intake@unya.bc.ca)

Manager at 604-230-8360 or [ybl.manager@unya.bc.ca](mailto:ybl.manager@unya.bc.ca)

What other resources are available through UNYA to support us along the way?

- UNYA – Counselling Services (604-254-7732)
- UNYA – Outreach Services (604-254-5147)
- UNYA – Native Youth Health and Wellness Clinic (604-253-5885)
- UNYA – Aboriginal Safe House (1-877-223-4321)
- UNYA – Family Mediation Counselling (604-254-7732)



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