**LIVING ARRANGEMENT AGREEMENT**

This agreement is between:

 (carer/relative)

(young person)

Below are the things we have discussed and agreed to follow while sharing the same home. I understand this Agreement is voluntary and is not a legal document.

**Board**

Rent or board normally covers water usage, heating and electricity. Rent or board has been agreed as being($ amount) ­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The rent or board will be paid (please select) weekly/ fortnightly/ monthly.

This will cover:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Housing |  | Food |  |
| Electricity |  | Gas |  |
| Subscriptions (TV, music, magazines etc.) |  | Water |  |
| Key to house |  | Other |  |
| Internet access |  | Other |  |

How will the rent or board be paid e.g. cash, bank transfer? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Can extra chores be negotiated instead of rent? If yes what is the agreement? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What is agreed if rent/board is overdue? Discuss and agree on any options such as more time to pay, set up a payment plan or agree to do extra chores.

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**Helping around the home (chores)**

(Name)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ agrees to be responsible for the following daily/weekly chores to contribute to the home:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Daily chore** | **Tick** | **Weekly chore** | **Tick** |
| (e.g. wash dishes, empty rubbish, do laundry, feed pets) |  | (i.e. Cook two meals, mow lawn, grocery shop) |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Positive efforts towards independence**

While living in this home, I (young person) will do the following activities to help prepare for living independently:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Time per Week (hours)** |
| e.g. Work, School, Volunteer work, Counselling, taking part in community events, cooking one night per week |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

While I am living in the home, (carer) will help me with:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Time per Week (hours)** |
| e.g. Driving hours, budgeting, shopping, public transport, tips to manage stress, manage bullying, breakups etc. |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**Mutual Respect**

It’s important to respect all people living in the home. This means being kind, polite and considerate of others. It means, for example, cleaning up after you’ve cooked, respecting each other’s privacy and asking if someone needs help to bring in heavy shopping. It also means not swearing, name calling, using intimidation and/or threats towards anyone living or visiting the home.

You should also be treated with respect. If you don’t feel like you are being respected or treated properly, call a house meeting, have a chat with the carer or call your caseworker or other support person for advice

**Quiet Times and inviting friends or family over**

Quiet hours are from (am/pm) to (am/pm) each weekday, and from (am/pm) to (am/pm) on the weekends. If you would like to have a visitor during these times, or have someone stay overnight, talk to (carer) beforehand to see if this is ok. If you want support while talking to the carer contact a trusted support person.

The expectations for quiet time and visiting are:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Substance Use**

No illegal substances will be used in the house or on the property. Discuss with the carer your concerns about other people living in the house taking substances. You can discuss your wishes, for example, you may prefer that adults who are living in the house smoke outside. Discuss and agree on the limits around use of alcohol and tobacco if applicable:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Live-In/Visiting Children / Young People (if applicable)**

I agree to be responsible for looking after my child/ren, sibling/s or friends while they are visiting. I have considered safety issues such as candles burning and safety gates near the stairs. I also agree to be responsible for organising childcare, transport and anything else they need while they are visiting including cleaning up after making meals or washing dirty clothes. List specific agreements if there are any.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

 **When things don’t work out**

Discuss and agree how to resolve issues when things don’t work out. Remember that talking about a problem is the best way to work out a solution. If things don’t work out - will the carer provide aftercare support and can they reach out to the young person for advice or support? Is there any other trusted adult who can help mediate if that is needed?

Discuss ways to resolve problems:

* Wait for everyone to be calm and discuss the problem together
* Try to separate the problem from the person
* Try to cool off first if you feel too angry to talk calmly
* Keep in mind the idea is to resolve the conflict not win the argument
* Try to find points of common ground
* Respect the other person’s point of view by paying attention and listening
* Talk clearly and reasonably
* Agree to disagree and find some ‘middle’ ground
* Arrange for someone to help mediate the situation.

|  |
| --- |
| **The mediation person will be:** **Other comments:** |

**Ending or changing the agreement**

Where possible the young person will provide two weeks’ notice and the carer will provide four weeks’ notice (or more) if other arrangements about accommodation are needed or planned.

**SIGNING THE AGREEMENT**

We agree to follow this Living Arrangement Agreement.

We understand this is not a legal document but a guide to support us while we are living together.

The agreement will start on (date) and be reviewed on (date) unless other living arrangements are decided or agreed before the review.

**Please sign below:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Young person signature** | **Date** |
| **x** |  |
| **Carer signature** | **Date** |
| **x** |  |
| **Carer signature** | **Date** |
| **x** |  |

*Don’t forget to keep a copy of the agreement.*