



ACTION STEPS

- ✓ Take your time. Resist pressure to make an immediate decision. Residential treatment should not be used in place of local emergency resources in the event that your child is in immediate danger. Beware of programs that push you to “act now” to prevent serious harm.
- ✓ Seek an objective, professional opinion before committing to a program.
- ✓ Ask about pre-admission assessments and admission criteria to determine whether your child qualifies.
- ✓ Request an individualized plan for your child that details the therapies, interventions, and supports that will address your child’s specific needs as well as the transition from treatment back to community-based care.
- ✓ If possible, visit the residential program and take a tour of the facilities before making a decision.
- ✓ Interview staff members.
- ✓ Talk to young people currently in the program.
- ✓ Talk to past students and their families.
- ✓ Verify the program’s licensing and accreditation claims.
- ✓ Verify the credentials of the clinical director and staff.
- ✓ Check with the board of education in the state where the program operates to be sure that the educational program is licensed in that state.
- ✓ Contact the state education board in your state to verify that academic credits will transfer.
- ✓ Obtain copies of publicly available information about the residential program, including complaints or actions filed against the residential program, site visit evaluations, violations, and corrective actions.
- ✓ Ask about the program’s philosophy on medications. Programs should neither over-medicate to sedate or have an anti-medication philosophy, especially if your child is currently relying on medications to cope with their diagnosed disorder.