



SAFE PLACE.

For Youth... Someplace To Go. Someone To Help.

What is Safe Place?

The Safe Place program offered through UMOM New Day Center is an extension of the National Safe Place program. UMOM New Day Center is the lead local agency for Safe Place in Maricopa County. Safe Place provides immediate access to help and resources for teens experiencing any unsafe situation, crisis, abuse, neglect, homelessness or have ran away. Safe Place is a community resource for teens available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

How does Safe Place Work?

Any teen, 12-17 years of age, can access help through the Safe Place program. A teen can either go to a designated Safe Place site, text SAFE and their location to 4HELP (44357) (they will receive the nearest Safe Place location), or call (602) 841-5799.

A designated Safe Place youth care worker or staff member will dispatch to the Safe Place site to meet with the teen and transport the teen to our Open Hands program.

Once at our Open Hands program, the teen will be in a secure location, and receive food and shelter while we assess what resources the teen needs and connect the teen with them. In some cases, teens are reunited with their families; in other cases, teens may enter our 21-day program, which provides shelter, food, counseling, education, and activities in a structured and caring environment. In other cases, teens may receive community referrals. If a teen presents without a legal guardian, staff will contact the state authorities to assign one. A legal guardian must be found within 24 hours of a child entering the shelter.

Safe Place can impact a teen's life forever.

When a young teen's step-father became a strong influence within their family, it presented many challenges and conflict. Ultimately, the teen was kicked out of his home with no money or resources. Sleeping in parks, wondering where his next meal would come from, he did anything and everything he could to survive. The simple things, like brushing his teeth, became very important to him. One day, when he realized his toothbrush was lost, he thought he couldn't handle living on the streets anymore. The youth decided to seek help. He went to the police department and told them everything he had experienced. The police contacted a Safe Place partner site.

Through the Safe Place program and commitment of the business to be a Safe Place site, the youth received immediate help and resources, including shelter, food, and counseling. As a result of the help the Safe Place client received, he is participating in Tumbleweed's Young Adult Program, working fulltime and attending community college. The youth credits Safe Place as, "saving his life".



Safe Place Site FAQs

1. What if youth is over 17 or under 12?

If a youth seeking Safe Place is over 17, go ahead and place the Safe Place call. UMOM New Day Centers will attempt to assist the youth find resources and safe housing. In some cases, we may have the staff available to pick up the youth and further assist, in person.

If a youth seeking Safe Place is under 12, go ahead and place a call to the authorities and/or 911. UMOM is still available to help troubleshoot the case, but we cannot pick up the youth.

2. What if the youth is accompanied by a parent?

Sometimes, parents or guardians will refer their children to Safe Place due to homelessness, domestic violence situations, etc. You may inform the parent that they may follow the Safe Place driver to the Open Hands shelter where the intake process will be completed; otherwise, they will have 24 hours to complete said process.

3. What if the youth is under the influence of drugs or alcohol?

The most important thing is that you remain safe! Do not put yourself in harm's way. If a youth appears to be minorly impaired, we will still preform a pick up and assess the situation at our shelter location. If you believe the youth presents a danger to themselves or others, do not hesitate to call 911.

4. What if the youth decides they no longer wish to receive services?

That is okay! We may **not** detain or hold a youth against their will. This is a voluntary program. Please go ahead and contact UMOM, regardless, and we can assist you in the next steps. Depending on the situation, we may or may not be obligated to contact the authorities.

5. Will the parent or guardian be contacted?

Yes, once the youth arrives at the shelter, UMOM is obligated by law to inform the parent or guardian of their child's whereabouts within 24 hours of being admitted to the Safe Place program. If we deem the parent unsafe, we will ensure the youth remains safe and a report will be filed with DCS (Department of Child Safety).

6. How long should a Safe Place pick up take?

Our UMOM team is located in Northwest Phoenix. Depending on traffic and distance, a typical case will take about 30-45 minutes. We will do our best to communicate directly with you regarding our estimated time of arrival.