



The Ark Dothan

WWW.THEARKDOTHAN.ORG | 334-794-7223 | 475 WEST MAIN ST., DOTHAN AL 36301

Ark Resident Discipleship Covenant Agreement: “The Exchanged Life”

Please read the following before applying for acceptance and residency. If you agree with this covenant, please sign the end of this form and return this agreement to the front desk of the Ark.

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Our discipleship approach consists of a Christ-centered, spiritual/educational perspective. It is geared toward leading individuals to live by faith, trusting in Christ as their Lord and Savior and teaching them to grow in their relationship with Him.

The Ark’s Discipleship Program is based on a perspective referred to as “The Exchanged Life” or “Christ-As-Life.” When an individual participates in this discipleship program, it is expected that his or her desire is to mature in Christ and know Him more intimately.

A specific process is involved in this discipleship for individuals. It begins with a personal history including a mental, emotional, and physical assessment. This requires a criminal background check and drug screening by law enforcement officials. Failure of initial drug screening will not necessarily exclude you from acceptance into the program, provided that you are honest when filling out the application for acceptance. Providing false information during the admission process may result in immediate dismissal from the program.

Those who participate in the discipleship program are required to make a **one-year commitment** and take part in all program activities defined as follows:

During the **first four to six months**, *you will not be allowed to be employed outside of the Ark*. You must complete the Discipleship Class and earn your GED before you can gain employment. You will not earn money during this time; however, the Ark will provide all of your basic needs. During this time, you are also required to attend daily Bible studies, group sessions, and church services. Each of these may require daily and/or weekly homework that must be completed. You will be expected to participate in daily work details, both inside and outside of the Ark facility.

The **second six to eight months** is a transitional period where you will be expected to find employment and pay program fees. You must have completed the Discipleship Class and earned your GED to be eligible to gain employment at this time. During this time, you will be trained in budgeting, finance, and interviewing skills. You will be required to save the majority of your earnings with Ark to be used in establishing your new life outside the Ark when you leave the program. During this time, you will be expected to attend Bible studies, group sessions, and church services.

We understand that it may be uncomfortable to disclose information related to your mental, emotional, and physical health. However, as a program designed to help you by establishing goals that are specific to your personal growth and well-being, it is important for our program to be aware of these aspects of your life. With the exception of certain, specific situations described below, you have a right to the

confidentiality of your information and progress at the Ark. The following are exceptions to your right to confidentiality:

- The Ark staff works as a team. Staff members may consult with other staff to provide the best possible care.
- The Ark staff works collaboratively with outside resources to provide the best possible care. The Ark staff may discuss your progress with representatives of the Alfred Saliba Family Services Center, The Harbor, Wallace Community College, and any other organization in collaboration with the Ark.
- If there is evidence of clear and imminent danger or harm to self and/or others, the Ark staff is legally required to report this information to the authorities responsible for ensuring safety.
- In situations where a staff member has a duty to disclose, or where, in the staff member's judgment, it is necessary to warn, notify, or disclose, the staff member may contact any person who is in a position to protect you or another person—including, but not limited to, the person in danger. The staff member may contact any medical or law enforcement personnel deemed appropriate.
- If the Ark staff learns of or strongly suspects physical abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect of any person under 18 years of age, the staff member must report this information to county child protection services.

Should any member of the Ark staff feel that you have psychiatric or medical needs that are outside the scope of practice of the Ark program, the Ark will refer to an appropriate provider who may provide the services needed. If necessary, you may be dismissed from the Ark program to receive any recommended services that are outside the scope of practice of the Ark.

This is a voluntary program, and you may leave the program at any time. You may be asked to leave at any time at the discretion of the Ark staff.

I have read and understand the conditions of participating as a resident of the Ark, and I agree to the expectations listed above.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____ Date: _____