

**OKLAHOMA COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
OFFICE OF JUVENILE SYSTEM OVERSIGHT**

Name and Location of Facility: Grace Cottage
Poteau, Oklahoma

Date of Visit: August 24, 2006

Oversight Reviewers: Tina Pendergraft and Sara Vincent-Spain, Oversight Specialists

Focus of Visit: Oversight Visit, 2006

Date: January 24, 2007

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted an announced visit on August 24, 2006, to Grace Cottage, located in Poteau, Oklahoma. The purpose of the visit was to assess compliance with established responsibilities and facility policy and procedures. Grace Cottage, a nondenominational, faith-based agency, is primarily funded by area churches, private donations, and fund-raising activities. Any female under the age of eighteen who is pregnant or has a newborn baby is eligible for admission. The facility was licensed for ten residents by the Division of Child Care of the Department of Human Services (DHS). On the day of the OJSO visit, the census was two juveniles.

Persons Interviewed

- Entry interview and an exit conference with the facility director
- One resident

Documentation Reviewed

- Two staff files
- Files on three residents

Areas Toured

- Entire facility

Overview

The OJSO attempted to interview both residents, but one declined. The interview questions pertained to the resident's perception of safety, program services, the rights of residents, discipline practices, and other residential program issues.

The OJSO reviewed two staff files and the files on three residents. The OJSO noted issues of concerns regarding the completeness of the files for the items checked.

An observational tour of the facility was conducted. The OJSO identified areas of noncompliance of licensure standards.

Summary

In the exit conference, the OJSO and the facility director discussed the several issues of concern identified from the file reviews and the observational tour. The OJSO contacted a licensing monitor of the DHS Division of Child Care to request a visit to the facility to provide education regarding licensing standards. The facility director was receptive to the arrangement. The OJSO will re-visit the facility to assess the facility's progress to come into compliance with the DHS licensing standards.

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