



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE GROUP HOME IN SQUIRREL HILL**

### ***Where is the group home located?***

The group home is located in the heart of Squirrel Hill, in close proximity to the JCC, the Friendship Circle, Jewish Family and Children's Services, and several synagogues, as well as other neighborhood amenities including the post office, supermarket, library, and green spaces.

### ***Who lives in this group home? How long will they live there?***

The group home is licensed to serve individuals who require round-the-clock care because of significant intellectual and physical disabilities. The assumption is that residents will live there permanently, as long as their needs can continue to be met.

### ***Who owns the home?***

The home was purchased with funds raised by JRS and Verland. Verland holds the deed but the two agencies have a signed agreement regarding its use.

### ***Who runs the group home? Does staff live there?***

Verland employs all of the staff providing direct care, taking care of the grounds, etc. The home is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, but employees do not live there.

### ***Where does staff park?***

The staff use the home's garage or driveway whenever possible, but may park personal vehicles on the street from time to time.

### ***What is the role of Jewish Residential Services in the group home?***

Jewish Residential Services is involved in making sure residents are included in the fabric of the community by assisting with staff training related to Jewish culture, facilitating linkages with the Jewish Community Center and other Squirrel Hill organizations, and continuing to work closely with Verland's leadership.

### ***Can the residents have visitors?***

Yes. This home operates like any other home, with residents inviting guests over for meals, etc.

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FAQ about the group home in Squirrel Hill (continued)

***Who covers the costs of operating the group home?***

Generally, residents of group homes licensed for this level of care have a PA Consolidated Waiver which is designed to help individuals with intellectual disabilities access a variety of services, including housing, to support community living.

***Do residents need to be Jewish?***

No. The home celebrates Jewish culture, however, with a kosher kitchen, Shabbat dinners, and observance of Jewish holidays, so it is important for residents to be comfortable in this environment.

***Who should neighbors contact if they have a question or concern?***

Neighbors can contact Jewish Residential Services at 412.325.0039.

***This home sounds like a good fit for me or someone I know. What's the next step?***

Interested parties can contact Alison Karabin, Project Manager for Young Adults in Transition at Jewish Residential Services, at 412.325.0039.