



Safe Place

Fact Sheet

What is Safe Place?

- ❖ Safe Place is a national outreach and prevention program for youth in crisis. More than 20,000 locations across the U.S. display the yellow and black Safe Place sign, the universal symbol of help and safety for all young people. Partnering youth-friendly businesses and community organizations, such as fast food restaurants, convenience stores, fire stations, schools, public transportation vehicles and libraries, connect youth in crisis with the local licensed Safe Place agency. Most licensed Safe Place agencies serve youth between the ages of 12 to 17 years old, although some agencies serve younger and older youth.

History

- ❖ Safe Place began as an outreach program of the YMCA Shelter House in Louisville, Kentucky in 1983. Access to emergency counseling and shelter for youth was identified as a community need and the YMCA Shelter House found a way to address this issue with the creation of the Safe Place program.

How Safe Place Works

- ❖ A young person enters a Safe Place location and asks for help.
- ❖ The site employee finds a comfortable place for the youth to wait while they call the local Safe Place licensed agency.
- ❖ Within 20-30 minutes or less, a Safe Place representative will arrive to talk with the youth and, if necessary, provide transportation to the shelter for counseling, support, a place to stay or other resources.
- ❖ Once at the Safe Place agency, counselors meet with the youth and provide support. Family Agency staff makes sure the youth and their families receive the help and professional services they need.

What is TXT 4 HELP?

- ❖ TXT 4 HELP is a 24-hour, text-for-support service which provides access immediate help and safety for teens. Youth can text the word "SAFE" and their current location (address/city/state) to 69866 and receive a message with the name and address of the closest Safe Place location, as well as the number for the local youth shelter agency. Users also have the option to text interactively with a mental health professional for more help. The service is free, but regular text messaging rates will apply to the user's phone bill.

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Safe Place is a program of:



National Safe Place Program Data

- ❖ [National Safe Place By the Numbers: 1983 – Present](#)

About National Safe Place Network

- ❖ National Safe Place Network (NSPN) provides quality training and technical support for youth and family service organizations across the country. As a membership organization, NSPN offers an array of services tailored to meet agency needs in the most cost-effective manner. These services include individual site visits, conferences, online training curricula, grant reviews, and more. NSPN also operates nationally recognized programs including Safe Place, HTR³, and the Family and Youth Services Bureau's Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC). To learn more, please visit www.nspnetwork.org.

National Safe Place Network Mission

- ❖ Ensuring an effective system of response for youth in crisis through public and private partnerships at a local, state and national level.

National Safe Place Network Vision

- ❖ National Safe Place Network envisions a world where all youth are safe.

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