

- FAQ -

1. What is New Name Ministries?

New Name Ministries is a Christ-centered transformational program for male former sex offenders usually returning from state, federal, or military prisons. Our program is also available to men who have been granted probation by the courts. In the spirit of restorative justice, we welcome the opportunity to work with men who have committed a sexual offense but have not yet been sentenced by the courts. We have also developed a hybrid program for men who have not committed a sexual offense using many of the same tools that have proven to be so effective in our original program. It takes a minimum of one year to complete our process that is designed to promote kingdom principles such as community, accountability, and responsibility through an understanding of the culture of honor, identity in Christ, healing, and kingdom culture. Our process is challenging, more akin to a spiritual boot camp. We are not a bed filling facility. We are not a transitional home. We are not an emergency shelter.

2. Does your facility accept out of state applicants?

If you are an inmate in a state facility outside of Texas, we will be glad to provide whatever information is needed by state officials to assist in your transfer. However, our experience has shown that interstate compact officials will not approve a transfer unless you have family in the area. We no longer consider applications from individuals in state prisons outside of Texas unless this condition is met or the individual is discharging his sentence prior to release.

3. Besides having a sexual offense, is there any other criteria to qualify for being a guest at one of the New Name Ministries' homes?

Yes. The criteria are:

- I am within 6 months of my first Parole review, have already had it or will be discharged within six months.
- I committed a sexual offense and agree that Christ has forgiven all my sins.
- I have committed my whole life to Jesus Christ.
- I admit that I need help to become the man God has intended for me to be.
- I am a single adult male 25 – 65 years old.
- I have been alcohol/drug/nicotine free for at least 6 months and commit to stay free.
- I am willing to submit to the leadership of the ministry.
- I will uphold all Godly boundaries set forth by the ministry.
- I will refrain from emotional and/or sexually entangling relationships.
- I will attend sex offender treatment at my own expense even if off paper.
- I have never been diagnosed with a personality disorder/mental health issue.
- I do not have a wheelchair bound disability.
- I will seek, accept and keep full time employment.
- I will become involved in a local Christian church.
- I will commit to a minimum of one year with the ministry.
- I understand that I am applying for a transformational program akin to a spiritual boot camp and I am not just looking for housing. This is **not** my back up plan to finding a halfway house.
- I will develop and work on a budget and goals.
- I have support for the initial \$750 and \$550/mo fees until I find work.
- I will provide two written character references with my request for an application.

4. What is needed for references?

Two written references utilizing our Character Reference Form are required before our 14-page application for acceptance at New Name will be sent or reviewed.

5. If your facility accepts me, will you write a letter of acceptance to the parole board on my behalf?

If you are accepted by New Name Ministry, we'll send you a letter of acceptance. It is your responsibility to see that the appropriate official receives a copy.

6. How long has your ministry been in operation?

New Name Ministries has been in operation in Texas since 2004.

7. Is your facility approved by the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles?

Our ministry is on the TDCJ Alternative Housing Resource list used by the parole release unit.

8. What is your success rate?

Our ministry has been in operation for over 11 years. To date, not one of our graduates has been arrested for a new sex crime. The state of Texas reports for fiscal years 2009 through 2011, re-arrest rates between 46.5% and 47.3% within 3 years of release for those released from its prisons. New Name graduates from 2009 through 2011 have a re-arrest rate 8.3% within 3 years of release. (We've had one graduate re-arrested within this period.)

9. What fees are required to be a program participant at one of the New Name Ministries' homes?

The initial fee is \$750. This includes a \$100 deposit, refundable upon completion of the program, and a onetime \$50 administrative fee. The Restorative Engagement Workshop, a required 2-day seminar involving instruction, ministry, and equipping is \$50. The remaining \$550 covers expenses for the first month. After the first month, monthly reimbursement fees are; \$450 in program fees, plus approximately \$75 - \$150 pro-rated share of utilities, printing, and household supplies.

10. What do the monthly reimbursement fees cover?

The monthly base fee contributes to the cost of housing, administration, ministry related transportation and bulk food. Prorated reimbursement fees cover: paper goods (toilet paper, paper towels, etc), cleaning and laundry supplies, utilities, phone service (excluding lines for monitors) and printing supplies.

11. When do I have to pay the initial fees?

The refundable deposit and administrative fee (\$150 total) are due upon acceptance to the ministry and deposited into the ministry account upon receipt. The remaining \$600 is requested when you near your release and is due before we receive a call from the release center confirming that bed space is available.

12. What if I can't pay the initial fees?

We are a self-supporting ministry. We cannot accept individuals unable to pay fees based on the same standard we use for those who are able to pay fees. Applicants passing this higher standard may be accepted under our Funding Agreement. This desire can be expressed as part of the application process.

13. How do I pay parole and treatment fees right after I get out?

For the most part, both parole and the treatment providers know you will be "strapped" for money when you first get out. They will work with you (within reason) until you secure a job. We recommend saving and using your gate money to cover parole fees until a job is secured. Parole fees are approximately \$10 - \$25 a month and treatment cost for the weekly group meetings is \$30. You may also be required to take psychological and other tests at your own expense depending on your treatment plan.

14. Do I have to complete SOTP before being accepted in your program?

Completing SOTP is not a requirement for being accepted in our home. You will be required to attend the parole approved in house treatment group conducted by a RSOTP at your own expense, even if you are not on supervision.

15. Where are the New Name Ministries' homes located?

Our homes are located near the hospital district of south Fort Worth near downtown. We are right off major bus lines allowing access to many parts of the city and the DFW metroplex area.

16. Are any churches nearby?

Yes. There are a variety of denominational and non-denominational churches near our homes. We require all new program participants to attend the ministry's covering church for the first 90 days of reentry. The ministry provides transportation to our covering church only.

17. May I have visitors come see me after I am released and moved in a New Name Ministries' home?

Yes. Adult family members and friends are welcome. **No children** (under the age of eighteen) are allowed. A visitor's policy will be reviewed with you during orientation. Some guidelines are as follows:

All visitors are required to review, sign and submit a completed Visitors Policy to the On-Site Manager of your home. Visitation is allowed Friday 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday 1 p.m. until 9 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. All visitors must sign the Visitors Log. Visitors are welcome to participate during 3rd Sunday food fellowship. Visitors are not permitted in bedrooms. All visiting must occur in common areas (i.e., living, dining and kitchen). Special visits are permitted with an approved Grace Request Form.

18. Are there any items not allowed on ministry property?

Yes. In addition to items specifically prohibited by a supervising agency, the following items are prohibited:

- Cameras,
- Video games (X Box, etc)
- Pictures of children
- Pornographic, lewd, provocative or revealing pictures or media of any kind
- Toys or anything that could be construed as a child's toy or that could be blatantly construed to be used to entice a child
- 'R'-rated movies or movies with primarily child actors

19. Are meals provided?

Some food is provided to prepare meals. Program participants are responsible for providing the balance of food stuffs through the use of food stamps or personal income. Program Participants take turns preparing evening meals and are eaten family style. They usually prepare their own lunches for work. Attendance to evening meals and food fellowship is mandatory.

20. Will I have my own bedroom and bathroom?

No. There will be one to two other men sharing a bedroom and bathroom with you. You will have closet and drawer space for limited personal belongings.

21. Does New Name Ministries provide jobs?

At the present time we do not have ministry industries to put individuals to work. We will, however, assist you by providing a list of employers hiring ex-felons, including sex offenders. We will connect you to agencies that help you prepare a resume and coach you regarding interviews. We will assist you initially by providing transportation to appointments for job interviews. Your job search needs to always consider transportation through a bus line or by car pooling. New Name Ministries' auto policy restricts personal transportation for the first 90 days and then only if all criteria have been met. Also, seek day shift positions; 2nd shift hours are prohibited since these times conflict with ministry and treatment provider group meeting times, 3rd shift opportunities can be considered on an individual basis.

22. Does New Name Ministries provide transportation from your release unit?

No. You will need to arrange your own transportation through family or friends. If you take the bus to Fort Worth using a TDCJ voucher, we will pick you up at the bus station upon your arrival. Be sure to call ministry staff to verify you have been released and call again with your estimated time of arrival.

23. Does New Name Ministries accept individuals that are required to wear electronic monitors?

Yes.

24. Does your ministry provide sex offender counseling?

Yes. An independent Christian RSOTP conducts an Intensive Treatment Group (Parole approved) in our home on a weekly basis. This is a requirement whether or not you have discharged your sentence.

25. Is attendance to ministry meetings required?

Yes. Our schedule of meetings varies by house but generally is as follows:

- Monday 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. – Issue Specific Studies
- Tuesday 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. – Dynamic Application Exercises
- Wednesday 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. – Sex Offender Treatment
- Thursday 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. – Reserved for Self-Study Packages
- 1st Sunday 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Food Fellowship.

New Name Ministries is program oriented instead of simply being a safe place to restart your life. We are dedicated to your transformation and if you do not have that same dedication to change, you will not be a good fit here. Participation in the above meetings is required and integral to your New Name experience.

26. Who is a good fit for what New Name has to offer?

New Name Ministries' transformational program is only for men who are committed both to Jesus Christ and their own change. Those who are simply looking for a launching pad for re-entry back into society or a safe place to land after prison need not apply as they will find themselves miserable with the New Name process.

27. Does your ministry go out to minister to others?

Yes. Pastor Jon Cordeiro speaks at local and national conferences related to re-entry and transitional homes. In addition, he speaks at churches and other organizations providing information about sex offenders and the myths surrounding the issues of sexual offenses. He recently co-authored a book with NNM's former Program Coordinator John "Bay" Haralson: **Unprecedented – How Sex Offender Laws Are impacting Our Nation**. This is a book for all those impacted by these laws and those who are involved in their creation and oversight. The book is available at www.unprecedentedthebook.com.

The New Name team also presents our Restorative Engagement Workshop to those who want to overcome the struggles of their life and wish to walk in the freedom Jesus intended us to receive through His finished work on the cross. This workshop is an intensive day of teaching, ministry, and prayer time designed to clean out many of the obstacles we face as well as equip us for further cleansing as the Holy Spirit directs.