

## What happens if a resident uses alcohol or drugs?

For the safety of the resident and the community, a relapse is met with immediate, appropriate action. In most recovery residences, this involves moving the individual out of the Recovery Residency (RR) and providing access to an inpatient program.

**Relapses can be fatal!** They endanger the life of the individual and the lives of everyone else in a RR.

Westmoreland Drug and Alcohol Commission requires each RR to define their relapse policy and to have procedures that do not “punish” an individual for relapsing but protect the health and well-being of that individual and the RR community as a whole.

## Recovery Residences are not:

- An alternative for incarceration;
- For residents actively using drugs or alcohol;
- A treatment facility;
- A place where non-residents can stay overnight;
- A halfway house; or
- A three quarter house.



# Club Serenity Recovery House FAQs

## Contact Us

724-314-3682

<https://www.overdosefreepa.pitt.edu/mon-valley/>

## Mon Valley Opioid Coalition

**Helping one person,  
one family, and one  
community at a time.**

## What is recovery?

Recovery is abstinence from alcohol and other non-prescribed drug use and improvement in one's physical, mental, spiritual, and social well-being.

## What is a Recovery Residence?

"Recovery Residence" (RR) is a broad term describing a **sober, safe, and healthy** living environment that promotes recovery from alcohol and other drug use and associated problems. Thousands exist in the United States. RRs offer **peer-to-peer recovery support** and are all aimed at promoting abstinence-based, long-term recovery. RRs are sober living environments, meaning that residents are expected to abstain from alcohol and illegal drug use and may require abstinence from particular types of medications according to individual policy.

## What is the primary purpose of a Recovery Residence?

We provide a safe and healthy living environment to initiate and sustain recovery.

Individuals build resources while living in a recovery residence that will continue to support their recovery as they transition to living independently and productively in the community.

## How are recovery residences managed to ensure the safety of the local neighborhood and community?

Recovery residences are guided by the Pennsylvania standards that establish best practices for maintaining the safety and health of the residents, the local neighborhood, and the larger community. PA licensed recovery residences meet standards addressing safety from an administrative, operational, property, and good neighbors perspective. **Club Serenity House will not allow overnight visitors.**

## Are residents expected to work and volunteer?

Yes. Working and volunteering are generally considered vital components of recovery. The residence fees are usually paid by the residents themselves, so they must work onsite and/or offsite to meet their financial obligations. New residents have less time for work activities as their time is more structured and may include numerous recovery activities during the day.

## Are the residents subject to drug testing?

Yes. Residents are subject to random drug testing at the manager/owner's discretion. Refusal is an automatic termination. Residents will also be terminated for any positive test.

## Are there stages/tiers of participation in Recovery Residences?

Many Recovery Residences (RR) define levels of recovery progress within the resident community. These levels are often also called phases and correspond with time in the residence, recovery progress as assessed by peers, and/or staff, and the degree to which residence behavioral requirements have been met.

Each level or phase is typically accompanied by an increase in privileges. Often, the RR will limit the activities for new residents for a length of time after admission. These restrictions might include always being accompanied by a more senior resident when outside the home, limits to contacts with family or friends, and expectations for a higher degree of involvement in recovery support activities

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## How does someone get accepted into a Recovery Residence?

Entry into a recovery residence usually involves an application/personal interview. Payment of first week's or first month's fees upon acceptance is common.

The Club Serenity RR is closely affiliated with outpatient programs and requires concurrent participation in those programs. Referrals will be accepted from Human Services providers, from the community, or from Club Serenity and its members/residents.