

What is a Group Home?

The term “group home” typically refers to a variety of settings in our State that serve vulnerable adults and/or children, many of whom have disabilities. Most commonly, it refers to adult foster care settings that are licensed by the MN Department of Human Services (DHS) and the County under Minn. Rule 9555 and/or Minn. Stat. §245D. Group Homes are designed to provide people with disabilities an opportunity to live in the community of their choice instead of in an institution.

Are there different types of Group Homes?

Yes. There are different group home types to serve multiple needs or groups. Some examples include:

- **Adult Foster Care** homes provide residents with assistance and services via an on-site caregiver;
- **Boarding & Lodging** Homes that provide individuals with a bedroom and shared living facilities;
- **Assisted Living** which provides services to residents on-site depending on needs;
- **Intermediate care facilities** for persons with developmental disabilities
- **Residential long-term care facilities**

Why does New Brighton allow Group Homes?

To prevent discrimination, Minnesota Statutes Section §462.357, subdivision 7, mandates that ALL communities in Minnesota must allow Group Homes of certain sizes provided they are licensed and meet required standards for such facilities. Cities cannot prohibit qualified group homes from their community as they are mandated by the state to be a permitted use of property.

How are Group Homes regulated?

On the state level, licensing requirements ensure that group home staff are qualified for the intended purpose, and that the building or home meets specific requirements for safety given the intended use. At the local level, cities have very little authority to regulate group homes other than to ensure they are operating within numbers allowed by State statute: 6 or fewer persons can be served by a group home in a single-family zoning district by right, and 7 - 16 persons can be served by a group home in a multi-family zoning district with a special use permit.

Does the City make money off of Group Home facilities?

No. Any permits or license fees paid by an individual group home are the same permits and licenses required of non-group homes in the City.

Does the city know the status of people living in Group Homes?

The City is not made aware of the status of group home residents. Pursuant to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, this information is considered private and cannot be shared with the City.

If not the City, what government agency has oversight for services provided by a Group Home?

That answer can vary depending on the type of group home in question and what services are needed by the people residing in the group home; however, most have licensure and oversight from Ramsey County and/or the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS). Assisted Living facilities typically have licensure and oversight from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). In most cases, a social worker is also involved with each person in the group home relative to the services he/she may require. Cities have no role in any of these processes, and we are simply notified if/when a facility in our City has been licensed.

What about Predatory Offenders in Group Homes?

Minnesota Statutes Section 244.052 outlines the specific procedures followed by State agencies with regards to the placement of predatory offenders. Subdivision (4) of this statute outlines the specific procedures local law enforcement must follow if/when a predatory offender seeks to live in the City.

How is criminal activity addressed in a Group Home facility?

People who commit crimes, regardless of their residence, are held accountable through the criminal justice system. Victims of crimes, regardless of their residence, have rights and protections. As stated above, community safety is our highest priority, and we are committed to ensuring the safety of all residents in all settings.

Questions? Please contact our Public Safety department at 651-288-4100 and we would be happy to respond.