

Texas Civil Commitment Office Chaperone Process and Frequently Asked Questions

What is a chaperone?

Being a chaperone is a big responsibility and an important job. A chaperone is a responsible person who has been approved by the client's Treatment Team to accompany and supervise the client during approved activities. A chaperone may be approved to take the client to appointments, to and from work, and other outings. All chaperone outings require prior approval.

How does someone become a chaperone?

The client may discuss this with their Case Manager. The potential chaperone must be a current collateral contact. If the Treatment Team initially approves, the potential chaperone must submit to a fingerprint criminal history background check. Prior approval is required and the Texas Civil Commitment Office (TCCO) will schedule the fingerprint appointment. Payment is due at the time the chaperone is fingerprinted and is the responsibility of the client or potential chaperone. If the potential chaperone meets the requirements regarding criminal history, they may be considered to attend Chaperone Training. A person who was involved in criminal activities or any civil commitment violations with the client will not be approved to be a chaperone. See TCCO policy *3.4 Approval of Contacts and Chaperones* for additional requirements of becoming a chaperone.

Where does someone attend Chaperone Training?

The Case Manager will assist in making the referral for the training after the potential chaperone has completed the background check process. Approval is required for a potential chaperone to attend training.

What is Chaperone Training?

Chaperone Training will educate the potential chaperone on the overall dynamics of sex offenders and their behaviors. This training will provide information on what is expected of a chaperone and tactics for effective chaperoning, thinking errors and how to hold the client accountable, high-risk situations and behaviors, and an emphasis on open and unlimited communication with the Case Manager and Treatment Provider that is the key for the client's success.

Does attending Chaperone Training guarantee the chaperone will be approved?

No, attending training does not guarantee the chaperone will be approved. The person must receive final approval by the Treatment Team after completing chaperone training.

How long is Chaperone Training?

Chaperone training is generally six hours in class and a couple family sessions. Additional family sessions and/or booster trainings will be required to maintain the chaperone status. The cost of training, family sessions and any refresher or booster trainings is the responsibility of the client and/or chaperone.

How much does Chaperone Training Cost?

The cost of chaperone training is determined by the Licensed Sex Offender Treatment Provider (LSOTP) who conducts the training. The LSOTPs are in private practice and are responsible for setting the cost, format and dates of the training. The cost of the training varies and ranges from \$360 - \$850 and is subject to change.

Please note, this is general information and is subject to change.