

JUVENILE FIRESETTING

TREATMENT SOLUTIONS **at ABRAXAS**



Open Residential Firesetter/Sex Offender Program



Abraxas Youth Center – Secure Firesetter & Sex Offender Treatment

www.abraxasyfs.com

Abraxas
a GEO Group Company



Abraxas offers specialized treatment for male juvenile firesetters in both open and secure residential environments. With over 12 years of experience treating this population, we understand and can characterize the primary motivational factors behind juvenile firesetting. At Abraxas we treat many of the co-morbid features of the juvenile firesetter effectively. When we 'treat the whole person,' the risk for recidivism can be significantly reduced. Thus, attention disorders, depression, conduct disorders, and other disorders are treated concurrently with specific firesetting issues. There is a growing body of clinical research on the underlying foundations out of which the most serious and pathological juvenile firesetters arise. These children frequently have developed with issues of early neglect and abuse. Healthy attachment processes are impeded as are the development of more functional self-regulatory abilities. With therapeutic work, the juvenile firesetter can develop more functional patterns and coping strategies.

Juvenile firesetters are a high risk population in several different ways.

- Juvenile firesetters do considerable damage to their communities.
- The monetary damages that result from juvenile set fires are substantial.
- Fire can and does lead to serious injury or even death including both to innocent victims as well as firefighters.
- Firesetting also is frequently a precursor to significant criminality. Worse yet, it is true that very violent criminals have had histories of juvenile firesetting, a proposition proven in retrospective studies of some of the most notorious offenders.
- Juvenile firesetters often have experienced high levels of neglect, as well as abuse. Verbal, emotional, and physical abuse are common. The firesetting youth also exhibits a higher proportion of experiencing sexual abuse than other juveniles. For this reason, sex offender treatment is also a part of the treatment milieu when applicable.

Different firesetters require different treatment approaches; this is not a 'one size fits all' clinical population. Abraxas offers residential diagnostic evaluations in both secure and non-secure settings to examine firesetting risk and appropriate treatment interventions. Long term treatment options based on a 52 week core group curriculum are also offered.

Diagnostic:

- 60 to 90 days non-secure
Open Residential Firesetter/Sex Offender Program (ORFSO)
- 90 day secure
Abraxas Youth Center (AYC)

Treatment:

- 12 month non-secure
Open Residential Firesetter/Sex Offender Program (ORFSO)
- 12 month secure
Abraxas Youth Center (AYC)



FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

- Families are encouraged to visit on a bi-weekly basis.
- Families are invited to participate in Individual Service Plan meetings and therapeutic family sessions.
- Families receive weekly phone calls and monthly reports.
- Clients can earn a home pass during the final phase of the program with Court approval.



DISCHARGE PLANNING / REINTEGRATION

- The final phase of treatment is 'Planning/Relapse Prevention' but discharge planning starts from day one. Counselors work with placing agency to gain information on reintegration services available in the area.
- Programs make recommendations and can assist in finding step-down facilities for clients.
- ORFSO clients complete a home fire safety assessment with their families during home passes and review ways to improve fire safety with the treatment team upon return.
- Abraxas staff conducts 30 day, 6 month and one year follow ups with clients post discharge.



ORFSO ACCREDITATIONS

- Association of Experiential Education
- National Commission on Correctional Health Care

AYC ACCREDITATIONS

- Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
- National Commission on Correctional Health Care



ADMISSION CRITERIA

- **ORFSO**
Delinquent or dependent male youth ages 11 to 16
- **AYC**
Delinquent male youth ages 12 to 18
- IQ of 70 or above preferred, however others will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis

CLINICAL SERVICES

The clinical program is facilitated by a master's level clinician and overseen by a consulting psychologist.

The program is based on a four phase curriculum:

Phase I: Introduction, Disclosure and Fire Safety Training

Phase II: Critical Beginning Skills

(Impulse Control and Affect Management)

Phase III: Critical Intermediate Skills

(Criminal Personality Theory, Cognitive Distortions, Moral Reasoning, and Developing Empathy)

Phase IV: Critical Advanced Skills

(Triggers and Cues, Victim Cycles, and Relapse Prevention)

Upon admission and prior to discharge, every youth receives a psychiatric evaluation. In addition, a TAPP-C assessment is completed upon admission to aid in determining firesetting risk. Various evidence and competency based curriculums are utilized throughout the course of treatment.

- Aggression Replacement Training (ART)
- Pennsylvania Victim/Community Awareness
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Thinking for a Change
- Teens on Target – violence prevention
- Ansell Casey Life Skills
- Project Alert – substance abuse
- La Red Leadership Training (ORFSO specific)

Clients participate in daily group counseling and have individual sessions once a week with a counselor and bi-weekly with a clinician. The programs offer an individualized emphasis on trauma recovery and issues related to PTSD.



Assessments

- TAPP-C: The Arson Prevention Program for Children - Firesetters
- ERASOR: Estimate of Risk of Adolescent Sexual Offense Recidivism - Sex Offenders
- Ansell Casey: Life Skills Training
- MAPP: Multidimensional Addictions and Personality Profile - Addiction
- Transitions to Work Inventory (AYC only)
- Psychiatric evaluation at intake and discharge

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

All residents attend school year-round at our private, licensed on-site schools. Clients at ORFSO and at AYC each attend school at their respective sites. Abraxas offers a full range of Special Education services. Many residents are able to make up education deficits (credit recovery) and progress more quickly than they have in the past. Core subjects include: English, Language Arts, History, Mathematics, Physical Education and Health, Science, and Life Skills. Smart Boards are used in every classroom and the on-site computer lab helps increase each resident's computer skills. Residents are strongly encouraged to set and meet high academic standards. Additional tutoring is available from the teachers for clients as needed. Residents are rewarded for academic accomplishments and positive behavior. Both a diploma and GED tracts are offered. PSAT and SAT testing is also available.



CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

ORFSO:

- Horticulture / Landscaping & Design (Agriculture, Green house Maintenance, and Gardening)
- Indoor / Outdoor Maintenance (Custodial, Janitorial and Preventative Maintenance)
- Microsoft, Osha-10 and ServSafe certifications offered
- CPR / First Aid certifications offered
- Pennsylvania Academic and Career / Technical Training (PACTT) Alliance affiliation

All clients will complete a portfolio and take it with them at discharge.

Portfolios will include:

- All certifications received
- Resume
- Competency Lists
- Evaluations

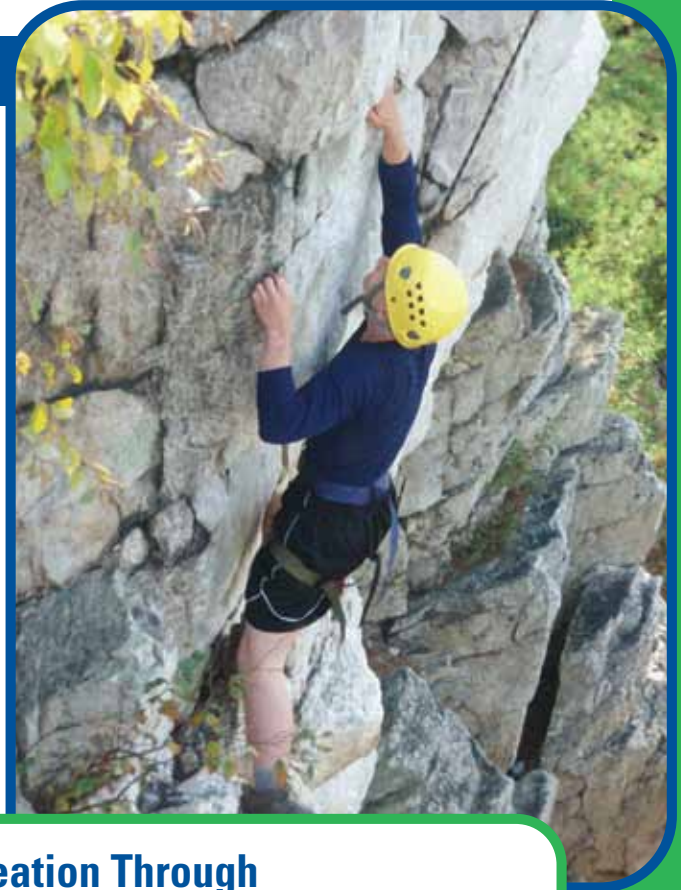
AYC:

- Certification in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Access and Outlook
- O*NET career aptitude assessment tool

All clients will complete a portfolio and take it with them at discharge.

Portfolios will include:

- All certifications received
- Resume
- Competency Lists
- Evaluations



Recreation Through

Experiential Education

(ORFSO specific)

– *Association of Experiential Education (AEE) accredited*

- Adventure based activities and team building
- High and Low Ropes Course, Rappelling, Rock Climbing, Canoeing and Field Operations





RESTITUTION & COMMUNITY SERVICE

AYC offers opportunities for both restitution and community service. AYC residents engage in community service activities with such groups as the National Fire Academy, Gettysburg Battlefield and a local Therapeutic Riding Center. Clients who owe restitution can participate in the restitution program if their behavior warrants it and can earn up to \$250 annually.

ORFSO offers residents opportunities for restitution and community service. Clients at the ORFSO program participate in community service work in cooperation with agencies such as local fire departments, animal shelters, children's advocacy centers, and universities.

Clients in both ORFSO and AYC are required to develop and present a BARJ Project to their treatment team and peers, and when permitted, clients present to their referral agency or other outside groups.



The below listed juvenile firesetter typology can be used to help recognize behaviors and begin to identify treatment needs. Effective outcomes are even more frequent when we carefully match treatment intensity to the seriousness of the juvenile firesetter's problems.

TYPES	CHARACTERISTICS	TREATMENT NEEDS
Curious or Accidental	Younger children who do not understand the basics of fire such as it hurts, it spreads, etc.	Fire Safety Education, including their caretakers (when possible). Possible counseling/therapy to help the child deal with the impact of their fire when indicated.
Crisis/Cry for Help	Children who use firesetting as a method (however distorted) to manage or resolve a crisis situation. Either they do not know how to get help or have psychological impediments to getting help.	Fire Safety Education, social service and/or counseling/therapy to resolve the underlying crisis. Relapse prevention so that future crisis situations do not lead to firesetting recidivism.
Delinquent	Usually middle school aged, these children derive pleasure from their intent to be destructive and the anti-authority aspect of setting a fire. Usually set fire with peers.	Implementation of legal and financial consequences. Education regarding other potential and realistic consequences. Balanced and Restorative Justice initiatives such as restitution, containment when safety needs to be ensured and possible highly structured residential care in more serious cases.
Revenge*	Children, usually teenagers, who use fire to obtain revenge. This is easy to ascertain when the revenge is direct but more difficult to discern when the target is random.	Consequences for setting the fire are necessary. Residential care is often necessary. Treatment should focus on down regulation of anger as well as exploration of other underlying emotions that magnify anger (fear, shame, hurt, etc).
Maladaptive Coping*	For these teenagers, firesetting becomes a solution to feelings of alienation, poor self-esteem, anxiety, and the like.	Residential care is frequently indicated. Work must focus on removing fire from being a solution to in-depth psychological problems. These problems will also require considerable clinical work.
Fire Fascination*	These teenagers have almost always had an interest in fire as youngsters and, as they develop, their interest in fire grows with them to become quite unhealthy. They psychologically 'light up' when seeing or thinking of fire.	Residential care is usually required. These teenagers need to be externally curtailed from stimulating their fire interest until they can quell this fascination internally. They require considerable clinical care.
Thrill Seeking*	These teenagers get equal enjoyment from their firesetting as they do from their attempts to elude being caught. Their firesetting usually rapidly progresses to become more and more serious.	Highly structured residential care is mandated to interrupt their progressive firesetting and to clinically deal with underlying issues.
Complex Firesetters*	These teenagers will have a combination of types of firesetting sub-types. They thus have an all too high psychological interest in firesetting and use fire to regulate themselves in complex ways.	Highly structured residential care with intensive clinical care is necessary.

***PATHOLOGICAL SUB-TYPES**



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TREATMENT SOLUTIONS at ABRAXAS

For more information or to make a referral please contact your local Client Relations Liaison or call the program(s) directly.

PROGRAM ADDRESSES:

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