

# Rules and Regulations Regarding Staying with a Host Family

We are excited that you have the opportunity to stay with a host family during your time in Taiwan. Staying with a Taiwanese host family will give you an insight of what the local life is really like. All host families are volunteers. They open up their homes and hearts to host overseas students all for cultural exchange. **Please respect your host family and do not treat the host family as a free hotel in Taiwan.** You will be living with a family that is volunteering to provide a roof over your head, a seat at their table, and a place in their hearts as well.

## 1. Basic Manners

Please remember the basic manners are expected. So, please make sure you obey the house rules while living with them. At all times keep your room clean and tidy, and offer general help with the household chores. Getting involved with everyone will help make you feel like you really are a member of the family. Besides, you must ask your hosts' permission before inviting guests to the home.

## 2. Meals

Each host family will have their own preferences, please discuss this with your host family. If you have special dietary needs or religious requirements, please inform them. Kindly inform your host family, should you choose not to be home for any meals. Our host families only provide free meals at home. If your host family invites you to eat outside or at restaurants, kindly ask how much it will cost and have the money ready. If you can't afford it, please let them know in advance and discuss with them for an alternative plan.

## 3. Cell Phones and Computers

You are responsible for establishing your cell phone plan and responsible for bringing your own computer or laptop. You should take financial responsibility for calls to your home country. If you must use the phone to contact home, you should call collect or use a pre-paid calling card. Don't forget there are many free calling apps.

## 3. Driving and Transportation

Host families are not expected to be your taxi driver. If you are planning an outing, make sure that you have discussed it with your host family. If the host parents are available, they may offer to drive you. Please consider the public transportation for your priority option. Students are not allowed to rent or drive any motorized vehicle at any time or place while taking part in the hostfamily program. If one of your host parents offers to take you for a ride on their scooter you may accept the ride, but please wear an appropriate helmet.

## 4. Medical Care and Emergencies

We suggest all overseas students to purchase health insurance plan prior to or after arrival. If you do happen to get ill or have an accident during your stay in Taiwan, you can ask your host family for assistance or inform your school. The costs associated with doctor's visits and other medical treatments are the responsibility of the student. The host family is not responsible for paying the costs associated with medical or dental care.

## 5. Natural Disaster

In case of a natural disaster, such as an earthquake or typhoon, please stay calm and follow the directions of your host family. Taiwanese families are quite accustomed to these occurrences and know what to do from experience and training.

## 6. Personal Expenses and Money Issues

All entrance fees to theme parks, movies and theatres are to be paid for by yourself. Please don't wait for the host family to pay. Ask how much it will cost and have the money ready. If you can't afford it, please let them know in advance and discuss with them for an alternative plan. Transportation fees, costs of eating out and any personal expenses are all at your own cost. Please take care of your personal belongings and your valuable items during your stay. No borrowing of money nor lending from your host family. Further, do not deposit your money into your host family's bank account. We suggest you to open your own account in Taiwan to keep your money safe.

## 7. Religion

You should respect your host family's religious beliefs, and they should respect yours. Host families may invite you to attend worship services as part of the cultural experience, but you are not required to participate.

## 8. Prohibited Behaviors

While living with your host family, there is to be:

- No smoking
- No drinking
- No drugs
- No riding scooters
- No driving cars
- No fighting
- No sexual activity of any kind

Please avoid going out alone with only one opposite gender family member, in order to avoid unnecessary misunderstanding. Should you break a rule such as driving or taking illegal drugs, you will have your program terminated.

## 9. Don't Break Laws

While you are in Taiwan, you are subject to Taiwanese law even though you are not a Taiwanese citizen.

### ● Drugs

Taiwan does not take drug use or trafficking lightly. The penalties for using or even possession of illegal drugs in Taiwan are quite severe — ranging from long jail sentences and large fines to the death penalty for certain drug offenses.

### ● Sexual Activity

As a participant in the Taiwan Host Family program, you consent to not participating in any kind of sexual activity while in the program. Regardless, we need to inform you that it is against Taiwanese law to have sex with a married person or with someone 16 years old or younger.

### ● Sexual Harassment

Taiwan also has sexual harassment prevention laws. The definition of sexual harassment is not based upon the intention of the action, but in how the action makes the recipient feel. All of the following could be sexual harassment if they are unwelcome or if they cause the recipient to feel uncomfortable: words, unexpected hugging, kissing, touching of private parts or any kind of unwelcome touch for that matter.

- **Abuse**

Abuse may take the form of verbal abuse, sexual abuse, or physical battering. Inflicting physical or emotional harm on another person is a punishable crime in Taiwan.

- **What to do if being Harassed or Abused**

If someone sexually harasses, verbally abuses or physically abuses you during your time in Taiwan, you should report the incident to someone you trust immediately and ask them to help you report the incident to local authorities. You also need to be aware that if you violate the above stated regulations in regards to sexual harassment or abuse, you may be convicted of committing a crime and face the charges of such a conviction.

## **10. Problems with Host Family**

No host family is perfect. You can find controversies and arguments in almost every family. According to this, an open and honest communication between both sides is really important. Most of the host families have a busy schedule and their own problems; therefore they won't recognize it directly, if their new family member doesn't feel comfortable or happy in their home. Instead of keeping your personal issues and problems bottled up inside, you should better explain all your personal matters to your host family during a quiet minute. If the situation has still not changed at all, it may be better to consider a change of your current host family! Sometimes it is not the perfect match between each other and you just do not get along together. We will always try the best for you. Our aim is to make sure you have a suitable and lovely host family!

## **11. Emergency Contacts**

Either of the following two numbers can be dialed for free at any public phone. Or, inform your school and us if you need any help.

Emergency: 119 (use this for life-threatening emergencies)

Police: 110 (use this if you are lost or in trouble)

## **Contact Us**

We would love to hear about your time in Taiwan and your stay with your host family. Please feel free to contact us for any assistance and let us know what you enjoyed about your time in Taiwan.

### **Taiwan Hostfamily Program**

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