



THE PEOPLE'S CALLAHAN

Minimum Standards for New York City SINGLE Adult Shelters Established in the Callahan Consent Decree

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO SHELTER

The *Callahan v. Carey* consent decree, signed in 1981, established the right to shelter in New York. By signing the decree, the city agreed to have certain minimum standards in effect in all of their shelters. Some of these standards are summarized below.

BEDS: All beds are to be at least three feet apart and not placed headboard to headboard. Each bed must be at least 30 inches in width. Each bed frame must be clean and in good repair.

MATTRESSES: Mattresses are to be clean, undamaged, well-constructed, comfortable and proper size for the frame.

LINENS: The following items are to be issued to each shelter resident:

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|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| A. 1 clean pillow | C. 1 clean blanket | E. 1 clean towel. |
| B. 2 clean sheets. | D. 1 clean pillow case | |

One clean set of linens is to be provided each week and more often as needed.

TOILETRIES: The following items are to be issued to each shelter resident on arrival and on an as needed basis:

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|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| A. Soap | E. Lotion | G. Feminine hygiene |
| B. Deodorant | F. Shaving cream | (women's and co-ed |
| C. Toothpaste | H. Shampoo | facilities) |
| D. Comb | | |

Razors are to be provided based on the procedure of the individual shelter.

LOCKERS: Each resident must be issued a secured locker.

SHOWER/BATHROOMS: There must be one clean, well maintained and working shower for every fifteen residents. There must be one clean, well maintained and working toilet (and/or urinal) and sink for every ten residents. Toilet tissue must be provided.

LAUNDRY SERVICE: Laundry service must be provided at least twice a week. A schedule of days and times must be prominently posted.

STAFF: There must be one staff member trained in first aid on each shift.

RECREATION: The shelter must provide at least ten hours of recreation time per week for all residents.

MAIL: Residents are allowed to send and receive mail without interception and without interference. A schedule of pick-up times must be prominently posted.

If you notice violations of any of the above requirements, or if you want more information about The *Callahan* Consent Decree, the rights of shelter residents or crisis intervention, please come to:

The Coalition for the Homeless

129 Fulton Street in Manhattan, Monday through Friday. Come early (by 8am) as we only see a limited number of clients each day on a first come first served basis. Take the A, C, 2, 3, 4, 5, or J train to the Fulton Street Station.

If you have been denied a shelter bed you may call the Coalition Sanction Hotline at 855- NYC-CFTH (855-692-2384)