



SAFE PARKING PROGRAM®

A PROGRAM OF NEW BEGINNINGS COUNSELING CENTER
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Safe Parking™ Program Office: (805) 845-8492
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SAFE PARKING PROGRAM® OVERVIEW

New Beginnings Counseling Center currently operates a program to provide safe overnight parking for qualifying individuals and families who are living in their vehicles. Program participants must be currently living in their vehicle and be a resident of Santa Barbara County. Additionally, participants must have current driver's license, vehicle insurance, and registration. The program is a cooperative between New Beginnings, local law enforcement, faith-based organizations and merchants, non-profits, the Cities of Goleta and Santa Barbara, and the County of Santa Barbara, where the participating institutions provide parking places for vehicle dwellers and/or collaborate with us in the successful implementation of the program

The program currently offers 136 spaces at 24 dispersed locations in the greater Santa Barbara area. Each lot offers free nightly parking for one to 15 vehicles, depending on location. The purpose of the program is to provide the level of stability needed for vehicle dwellers to effectively make positive changes in their lives and become re-employed and re-housed as quickly as possible. In addition to parking, New Beginnings offers social services and case management to help them achieve this end.

HOW IT WORKS

Faith-based organizations, non-profits and businesses interested in participating in the program sign a contract with New Beginnings and agree to a basic set of rules for the vehicle dwellers on their property. The participating institutions are currently free to augment or edit the rules as they see fit in accordance with County and/or City codes.

Clients seeking to participate in this program receive an intake assessment. Potential clients are screened via an in-depth interview designed to identify immediate crises and needs, and establish long-term goals. Typical issues include the following:

- ❖ Determine immediate crises, both personal and vehicle-related
- ❖ Verify identification or assist in obtaining identification
- ❖ Income verification if any – employment, government, food stamps, etc.
- ❖ Determine monthly expenses and bills
- ❖ Obtain pertinent info and ID regarding children and dependents
- ❖ Determine legal issues pending
- ❖ Determine medical issues/establish medical history

PROGRAM OPERATIONS, RULES AND REGULATIONS:



Each client attends case management meetings to determine how they are progressing toward meeting their goals. In addition, lot monitors/outreach workers conduct nightly checks of the participating lots to assess usage, identify potential problems, and maintain safety for all. Below is a list of rules and regulations that the client must agree to in order to be able to qualify for our services.

PARKING RULES, RESTRICTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SAFE PARKING PROGRAM:

1. Program participants must be currently living in their vehicles in the Santa Barbara or Goleta area and they must have current license, registration, and insurance.
2. Guns or firearms of any kind are strictly prohibited, and the use of alcohol and/or drugs will not be tolerated. Failure to abide by this rule will result in immediate removal from the assigned location.
3. Urinating, defecating, or disposing of such waste on the property is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. Failure to abide by this rule will result in immediate removal from the assigned location.
4. Absolutely no violent acts, verbal or physical. If you have an issue with another client contact the office and we will handle it administratively.
5. Any concerns, complaints, or suggestions regarding the lot must be communicated with the Safe Parking office directly and handled administratively. Clients are NOT authorized to approach any lot owner, staff member, visitor, or anyone else authorized to be present in the lot.
6. Clients must always maintain a working phone or email, in order to be in contact with case managers.
7. Clients must utilize the permitted space a minimum of 4 nights per week in order to retain a space in the program. Safe Parking Program staff must be notified within 36 hours of any absences from the lot, except in cases of emergency.
8. Camping tarps or camping equipment beyond the top of the vehicle are prohibited.
9. Cooking outside the vehicle is absolutely not allowed.
10. All trash will be disposed of offsite and the area will be kept tidy.
11. Loud music is not permitted.
12. Parking lot is for sleeping use only.
13. Overnight stays will be limited to the hours assigned. Adherence to in and out times is mandatory.
14. Users must keep (barking) dogs in their vehicle at all times. Animals must be kept on a leash at all times on the property. Animal waste must be picked up immediately and disposed of properly.
15. Under absolutely no conditions will the client(s) invite other vehicle dwellers to occupy the site or invite any visitors or any type of patrons into the parking lot.
16. If bathroom facilities are provided, showering or bathing is not permitted.
17. The owner of the parking lot cannot be held liable for damages caused by a third party to the parked vehicle or its occupants.
18. Absolutely no more than one vehicle allowed per individual or family staying at the site.
19. Absolutely no use of the facility services i.e., ELECTRICITY, water, trash or any of the hoses at the site. Failure to comply with this rule will result in immediate termination from our program.
20. Please respect the privacy of the surrounding neighbors and their property.
21. Children will be watched and kept safe at All Times --- No Exceptions!!!!
22. Do not park within 3 blocks of the lot you are assigned to at any time.
23. If you do not renew your permit within 7 days after the expiration date you will be suspended from the program and must make an appointment to discuss reinstatement.

Note: Please notify us immediately if you are leaving either for a week or permanently, and if you have been issued a key to a site please return it when you leave. We are not responsible to remind clients when to renew permits. We do not automatically renew permits.



Client Confidentiality and Privacy Policies

Safe Parking program staff will not divulge whether someone is or is not a participant in the program. Program staff will not divulge any personal identifying information of any individual or family participant of the program without consent from the client/s. The Safe Parking program has incorporated into its policies and procedures a process that will ensure the confidentiality of program participants' identifying information; records pertaining to any individual or family provided with assistance; and treatment services offered under any project associated with New Beginnings. Furthermore, the address or location of any participant assisted through the Safe Parking program will be anonymous except upon written authorization for this information to be made public from the client/program participant to the person or persons responsible for the operation of the program.

I/We, consent to participate in the shelter component of the Safe Parking Program, and I/We Accept and agree to respect, acknowledge and adhere to the rules, policy, and procedure; guidelines and regulations that are stated above and will accept full responsibility of the consequences of the outcome if there is a violation to this contract.

(signature of client)

(date)

(signature of client)

(date)

(signature of case manager)

(date)

In addition to these rules, all clients sign a release of information and a waiver of liability towards our company and our organization, indicating that neither party is responsible for damages to the vehicle, and allowing us to share client information. New Beginnings Counseling Center carries liability insurance for each Safe Parking lot location.

CONCLUSION

In closing, we hope you will consider participating in this program. If you have any questions about this introductory packet, please call the Safe Parking Program Coordinator Cassie Roach at (805) 845-8492 or (805) 450-8476.

Also, if your organization would like to communicate with one of our local lots that are currently working with us we would be happy to connect you with those organizations. It is important to gain various perspectives on the program in order to make a balanced decision that is in the best interest of your organization, while also thinking about the needs of homeless individuals in our community who are forced to live in their vehicles.

To reach New Beginnings Counseling Center to speak with the Executive Director, Kristine Schwarz, please call (805) 963-7777 x144. If we do not hear from you, we will follow up in the next several weeks with a phone call to offer further information and answer any questions you might have.

Thank you for your interest in our program.