



Schaffer Children's Shelter

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The Schaffer Children's Shelter, an 8-bed diagnostic facility that serves children ages 4–12, is licensed by the New York State Office for Children and Family Services (OCFS).

Often children with histories of trauma exhibit behaviors that become unmanageable in their homes. The children's shelter offers a complete 30- to 45-day diagnostic, which includes a comprehensive psychosocial and behavioral assessment, as well as psychiatric, individual psychological, and family assessment. These three assessments are conducted by three doctors, each of whom is licensed in his or her respective field. The ability to use three doctors allows for a comprehensive overview of the child and family. The children's shelter prides itself in providing recommendations and a road map for success for the child and family.

The Schaffer Children's Shelter is also able to provide brief emergency respites for children in crisis. These are children who are not in need of hospitalization but who can benefit from a short stay out of their family home. The goal of emergency respite is to provide families with a break, thus preventing out-of-home placement for the children.

Available Services

- Behavioral management
- Comprehensive psychological assessments
- Projective and IQ testing
- Psychiatric assessments
- Family assessments
- Comprehensive write-up synthesizing doctors' assessments and behavioral observations of the child in the facility

At the conclusion of the assessments, the local Department of Social Services is given the reports and assessments.

Benefits

- Stabilization of the child
- Improved daily functioning at home, in school, and in the community
- Caregivers are more understanding of and better prepared to manage their child's behaviors and emotional needs
- Caregivers have a better understanding of how the child and family's background affects their current functioning
- A comprehensive document that can provide guidance to future service providers

These programs are some of the services provided by Northern Rivers Family of Services and its member agencies.

Getting Started

The diagnostic program is available to children ages 4–12 currently in the care and custody of their local Department of Social Services. Emergency respite is available to some private insurance companies and certain local county mental health offices.

Call 518.346.4251 for more information or bed availability. The shelter accepts referrals 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Each child is screened to determine appropriateness for the program.

