

Evaluating Private Residential Treatment Programs for Troubled Teens

FTC Urges Caution When Considering 'Boot Camps' When parents or guardians are considering finding a residential treatment program for a troubled teenager, the decision is often a difficult one.

While residential treatment programs may appeal to families, some of whom are looking for a less-restrictive alternative to incarceration or hospitalization, no standard definition exists for these programs. Such programs are not regulated by the federal government, and many are not subject to state licensing or monitoring.

In an effort to help parents and guardians with these decisions, the Federal Trade Commission has written a new publication with 15 questions to ask representatives of residential treatment programs. To learn more go to http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/products/pro27.shtm.

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