

## Religious Services

It is the policy of Brace Residential Center to provide the opportunity for all youth to voluntarily pursue their designated religion. Youth may request that a spiritual leader visit them at the facility. Recognizing that many youth lack a sufficient foundation to accept or reject religious precepts, all youth are afforded the opportunity to attend bible study programs on grounds. This program is administered by local church officials on a voluntary basis.

## Health Services

The medical unit has two nurses. Brace networks with Bassett Health Care in Sidney for all youth emergencies and non-emergency medical needs. After-hours emergency room and pharmacy services are also available. A dentist provides dental care once a month at the facility.

## Pre-Release Orientation

Each resident is required to keep a Sixty-Day Release Ready Journal. The journal is reviewed by the counselor, staff mentor, and the resident each week. The counselor is in contact with the aftercare worker on a regular basis. Residents go on a pre-release "home" visit two weeks prior to their scheduled release date to get enrolled in school or a GED program, or to fill out applications for employment.

### Directions from Albany

Take the NYS Thruway west to exit 25A (I-88). Travel on I-88 west to the Route 8 – Sidney exit. Turn left off the exit onto Route 8 south. Travel through the village of Masonville, and continue on Route 8 for approximately 5 miles to the facility, on the right. There is a sign at the driveway to the facility.

### Directions from New York City

Take the NYS Thruway north to Exit 16 (Harriman). Take Route 17 west to exit 84, Deposit. Take Route 8 north from the exit for approximately 10 miles to the facility. Brace is on the left.

### Directions from Binghamton

Take I-88 east to Route 206 (Bainbridge exit). Turn right onto Route 206 east and continue to Masonville. At the intersection of Route 206 and Route 8 (blinking light), turn right onto Route 8 south and continue through the village of Masonville. Continue south approximately 5 miles to the facility, on the right.

## Brace Residential Center

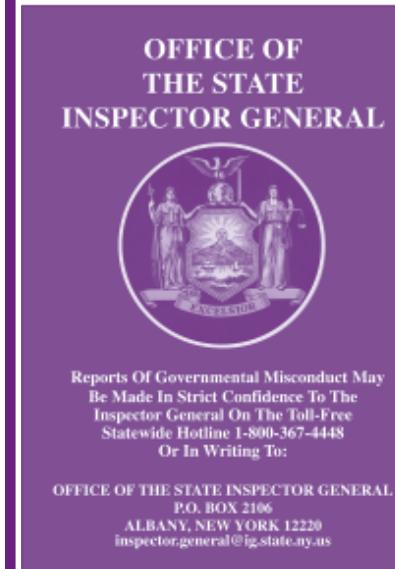
10699 State Highway 8  
Masonville, NY 13804  
Phone: (607) 265-3291  
Fax: (607) 265-3483

Youth in the custody and care of OCFS and their families have access to the agency's Office of the Ombudsman, the purpose of which is to assist youth with questions or complaints regarding their legal rights, their access to the courts, and the quality of life in OCFS facilities.

## New York State Office of Children & Family Services

Capital View Office Park  
52 Washington Street  
Rensselaer, New York 12144

Visit our website at:  
[www.ocfs.state.ny.us](http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us)



*"...promoting the well-being and safety of our children, families, and communities. ..."*



State of New York

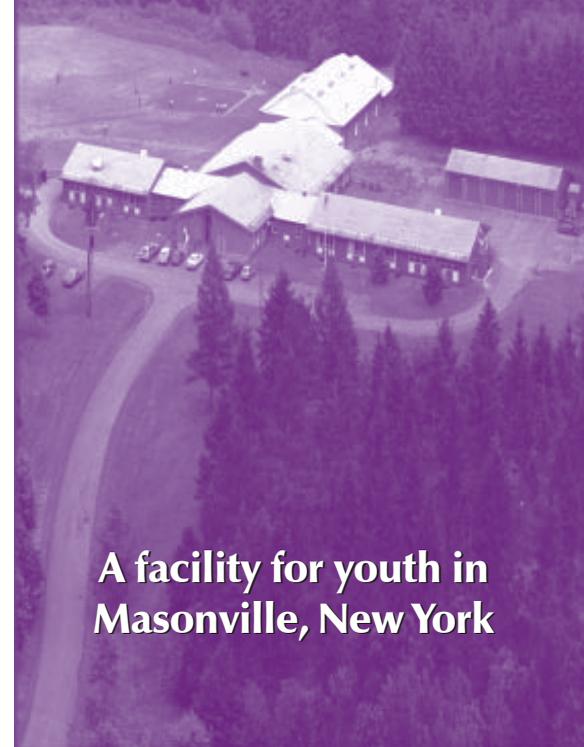
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New York State  
Office of  
Children & Family  
Services

# Brace Residential Center



A facility for youth in  
Masonville, New York

# Brace Residential Center

## Background

The New York State Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS) is responsible for the administration and management of specialized programs for juvenile delinquents and juvenile offenders. It operates residential facilities for youth placed in the custody of OCFS by the family and criminal courts. One of these facilities is Brace Residential Center (Brace), located six miles south of the village of Masonville in Delaware County. It is about 165 miles northwest of New York City, 100 miles southwest of Albany, and 40 miles east of Binghamton. Brace Residential Center, about 10 minutes from Sidney or Deposit, is located in a heavily wooded, sparsely populated area in the midst of Steam Mill State Forest. The facility serves 25 boys, ages 12 to 17, in two units in a one-story building. In addition to the dorm living areas, the building includes education and administrative wings, a dining hall and kitchen, and a gymnasium. Brace also has vocational shops, a greenhouse, and an outdoor activity area.

## Services Provided

### Counseling

Brace Residential Center believes that counseling begins at the front door. Throughout their stay, residents are taught self-discipline, humility, self-respect and respect for others, and the importance of being a good citizen. Group counseling sessions are held on anger control, independent thinking skills, community and independent living skills, substance abuse treatment, and character education. A cognitive and behavioral journal program helps youth prepare for successful transition and reintegration back into their communities. Work Plus, an experimental training program, helps prepare them to enter the work world. All group sessions are followed up with individual counseling sessions with staff mentors and facility counselors. It is the overall goal at Brace Residential Center to identify areas of risk for each youth and help them avoid future lapses in judgment.

### Education

Brace Residential Center has an education coordinator and two full-time teachers. The education program provides credit courses to meet New York State Educa-

tion Department mandates. Brace offers instruction suited to each youth's needs, including remedial and special education services and GED instruction.

### Vocational

Brace Residential Center offers youth educational experiences to help them gain employable skills in a trade of their choosing. Brace offers training in culinary arts, horticulture, computer technology, woodworking, landscaping, welding, and maintenance and grounds. Residents receive help in writing their resumes, which are included in a professional portfolio. It is Brace Residential Center's commitment that every youth has a completed portfolio prior to his release.

### Recreational

Brace offers a range of recreational activities. These include basketball, volleyball, flag football, softball, snow activities, weightlifting and cardiovascular workout machines, rope and wall climbing courses, table tennis, and other sports. Along with skill development, the residents learn the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship, and playing by the rules. Brace encourages residents to choose organized recreational programs as a beneficial way to spend their time once they return to the community.

### Special Programs

Business and civic leaders, speakers from community organizations, and college and military recruiters visit the facility regularly to discuss career opportunities.

CPR and First Aid certification is an elective available for all youth at a minimal fee.

Staff at Brace Residential Center believe that family holiday traditions are a critical component of character education, so we encourage all youth to participate in facility celebrations.

Residents are recognized for their accomplishments on a regular basis.

### Community Service

Citizenship is a core element at Brace Residential Center. To help develop community-minded citizens, Brace requires all residents to complete 10 hours of community service. Examples include restoring a historical cemetery, clearing brush, cleaning campsites and a beach at a local state park, helping local communities with cleanup projects, and maintaining flower gardens for a walking trail in Sidney.

All residents at Brace learn how to crochet. Every resident is required to make a lap blanket for residents of a local nursing home.