



DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
Olympia, Washington

TITLE:                    RESTRICTIVE PROCEDURES AND PHYSICAL                    POLICY 5.20  
                                 INTERVENTIONS WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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**SCOPE**

This policy applies to children and youth who receive the following DDD funded services:

- A. Children's Residential Services, including:
  - 1. Family Foster Care;
  - 2. Licensed Staffed Residential Programs;
  - 3. Child Foster Group Care; and
  - 4. Contracted Behavior Management and Consultation Providers used in the settings described above; and
- B. Behavior Management and Consultation services from contracted providers.

**POLICY**

- A. The use of restrictive procedures with children and youth requires consideration of their developmental level and careful evaluation and oversight. Some procedures that would be restrictive for an adult and by policy might require an Exception to Policy (ETP) may not require an ETP when used with children and youth.

For example, restricting a child/youth's access to certain populations, areas, or public places is developmentally appropriate. Adults acting in lieu of a parent are expected to supervise children/youth with regard to their safety.

- B. Restrictive procedures must be used only as provided for in this policy.
- C. Physical interventions must be used according to an approved Positive Behavior Support Plan (PBSP) and only when positive or less restrictive techniques or procedures have been tried and have been determined to be insufficient to protect the child/youth, others, or to prevent significant property damage. Unless the child/youth's behavior poses an immediate risk to physical safety, efforts other than physical restraint must be used.

Licensed residential settings must adhere to [WAC 388-148-0480 through 388-148-0490](#) in addition to this policy. When a child/youth's PBSP includes restrictive procedures that may impact his/her housemates, efforts must be made to minimize the effect on the housemates. How the housemates will manage these restrictions must be documented in their respective service plans.

- D. Restrictive procedures and physical interventions as described in this policy may be used for the purpose of protection and to teach the child/youth natural consequences for

engaging in challenging behavior. Protective restrictive procedures have one or more of the following characteristics:

1. Interrupting or preventing behaviors that are dangerous or harmful to the child/youth or others;
  2. Interrupting or preventing behaviors that cause significant emotional or psychological stress to the child/youth or others; or
  3. Interrupting or preventing behaviors that may result in significant damage to the property of others.
- E. The least restrictive procedures needed to adequately protect the child/youth, others, or property must be used. Restrictive procedures must be terminated as soon as the need for protection is over.
- F. For children and youth in licensed residential settings, if the PBSP includes restrictive procedures, it must also contain:
1. A description of the restrictive procedure that will be used, when and how it will be used, and clear criteria for termination;
  2. A plan for recording data on the use of the procedure and its effect (each use of the restrictive procedure must be documented); and
  3. A description of how the program or interdisciplinary team (IDT) will monitor the PBSP, assess restrictive procedure outcomes against criteria for termination, and determine whether there is a continued need for the restrictive procedure.

## **PROCEDURES**

### **A. Identifying the Need for Restrictive Procedures and Physical Interventions**

Before implementing restrictive procedures and physical interventions with a youth age 18 to 21 years, the parent/guardian and the youth must be involved in discussions regarding the perceived need for these methods, including:

1. The specific restrictive procedures and physical interventions to be used;
2. The perceived risks of both the child/youth's challenging behavior and the restrictive procedures and physical interventions;
3. The reasons which justify the use of the restrictive procedures and physical interventions; and

4. The reasons why less restrictive methods are not sufficient.

## **B. Prohibited Procedures**

1. In addition to the prohibited procedures listed below, providers in licensed residential settings must adhere to [WAC 388-148-0470 and 388-148-0485](#), which also specifies prohibited disciplinary procedures. This also applies to Section D below.
2. Procedures that are **not permitted under any circumstances** and for which no exceptions to policy (ETP) shall be granted are listed below:
  - a. Corporal/physical punishment;
  - b. The application of any electric shock or stimulus to a child/youth's body;
  - c. Forced compliance, including exercise, when it is not for protection;
  - d. Locking a child/youth alone in a room;
  - e. Overcorrection;
  - f. Physical or mechanical restraint in a prone position where the child/youth is lying on his/her stomach;
  - g. Physical restraint in a supine position where the child/youth is lying on his/her back;
  - h. Removing, withholding, or taking away money, tokens, points, or activities that a child/youth has previously earned;
  - i. Requiring a child/youth to re-earn money or items purchased previously;
  - j. Withholding or modifying food as a consequence for behavior (e.g., withholding dessert because the child/youth was aggressive);
  - k. Restraint chairs; and
  - l. Restraint boards.

## **C. Prohibited Physical Interventions**

1. Physical interventions using any of the following are **not permitted under any circumstances** and no exceptions to policy (ETP) for their use shall be granted.

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- a. Any intervention that causes pain to the child/youth and/or uses pressure points (whether for brief or extended periods);
  - b. Obstruction of the child/youth's airway and/or excessive pressure on the chest, lungs, sternum, and diaphragm;
  - c. Hyperextension (pushing or pulling limbs, joints, fingers, thumbs or neck beyond normal limits in any direction) or putting the child/youth in significant risk of hyperextension;
  - d. Joint or skin torsion (twisting/turning in opposite directions);
  - e. Direct physical contact covering the face;
  - f. Straddling or sitting on the torso;
  - g. Excessive force (beyond resisting with like force); and
  - h. Any maneuver that involves punching, hitting, slapping, poking, pinching or shoving the child/youth.
2. **The following specific physical techniques are prohibited:**
- a. Arm or other joint locks (e.g., holding one or both arms behind back and applying pressure, pulling or lifting);
  - b. A "sleeper hold" or any maneuver that puts weight or pressure on any artery, or otherwise obstructs or restricts circulation;
  - c. Wrestling holds, body throws or other martial arts techniques;
  - d. Prone restraint (child/youth lying on the stomach);
  - e. Supine restraint (child/youth lying on the back);
  - f. A head hold where the child/youth's head is used as a lever to control movement of other body parts;
  - g. Any maneuver that forces the child/youth to the floor on his/her knees or hands and knees;
  - h. Any technique that keeps the child/youth off balance (e.g., shoving, tripping, pushing on the backs of the knees, pulling on the child/youth's legs or arms, swinging or spinning the child/youth around, etc.); and

- i. Any technique that restrains a child/youth face-first vertically against a wall or post.

D. **Restrictive Procedures Permitted Only By Exception to Policy (ETP)**

The procedures listed below are considered extremely intrusive and may be used only when less intrusive procedures have failed to protect the child/youth, others, or property. **Use of these procedures requires a PBSP and an ETP.**

1. Approval at the Division Director Level

The following two (2) restrictive procedures require the prior written approval of the Division Director:

- a. Exclusionary time out room. This means placing a child/youth alone in an unlocked room in which no reinforcement is available and from which the child/youth is prevented from leaving. Time out rooms must meet federal ICF/MR regulations and guidelines. Providers must also adhere to DLR WAC 388-148-0487.
- b. Use of ongoing video monitoring for medical necessity for more than six (6) months in a licensed residential setting. See Section 2.d below for complete requirements.

2. Approval at the Regional Administrator Level

The following restrictive procedures require the prior written approval of the DDD Regional Administrator:

- a. Requiring a child/youth to wear any electronic monitoring device on his/her body to monitor the child/youth's behavior, including global positioning system (GPS) devices for eloping or wandering.
- b. Regulating or controlling a youth's (age 18-21) money in a manner that the youth and/or parent/guardian object to (DLR WAC 388-148-0695). Note: Providing an allowance to the child/youth for weekly spending money is not considered restrictive.
- c. The use of locks on doors, gates, and fences for children and youth who frequently elope or wander away and which prevent **independent** egress from the residence and/or yard. Exit doors and rescue windows must be easily and quickly opened from the inside without requiring a key or special instruction. Providers must adhere to DLR WAC 388-148-0225.

d. Use of video monitors for client health and safety

All people have the right to privacy, including children and youth. The use of a video monitor in a child/youth's home or bedroom is extremely intrusive. For this reason, there must be tight controls around the use of video monitors and ongoing assessment of the need for their continued use.

Video monitors are permitted when medically necessary for the child/youth's health and safety, provided the following requirements are met:

- i. There is documentation that the child/youth's interdisciplinary team, including the CRM and residential services staff, has explored other less invasive options (e.g., additional staffing, installing call buttons, bed alarms, motion sensor, etc.) prior to requesting to use a video monitor.
- ii. There is a current physician's order that clearly states the medical necessity for the child/youth and anticipated duration of monitor use.
- iii. The child/youth and his/her parent or legal representative must be aware of the monitor and give consent for its use. Their signed consent must be documented in the client's record.
- iv. There is a written plan that gives direction to all residential staff regarding:
  - a) When the monitor is to be turned on and off;
  - b) Consideration of privacy issues;
  - c) How to respond when the child/youth turns off the monitor or requests that the monitor be turned off;
  - d) No video recording permitted;
  - e) Documentation requirements;
  - f) Under no circumstances can the video monitor be used for staff convenience or to purposely invade a child/youth's privacy; and



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- g) Staff responsible for viewing the monitor will receive training on this plan.
  - v. There is an approved ETP as follows:
    - a) If the monitor will be used for six (6) months or less, the Regional Administrator (RA) will be the approving authority; **or**
    - b) If it is anticipated that the monitor will be used for more than six (6) months, the Division Director will be the approving authority.
  - vi. Staff will document the use of the monitor, including duration and name of staff, on a daily basis. This data must be included in the child/youth's record.

E. **Protective Restrictive Procedures and Physical Interventions Permitted Without an ETP**

The restrictive procedures and physical interventions listed below require a PBSP as specified in this policy (see also DDD Policy 5.19, *Positive Behavior Support for Children and Youth*, which also lists certain protective procedures that require a PBSP). Protective restrictive procedures include, but are not limited to:

1. Requiring a child/youth to leave an area with physical force (i.e., physically holding and moving the child/youth) for protection of the child/youth, others, or property.
2. Physical restraint to prevent the free movement of part or all of the child/youth's body when the child/youth's behavior poses an immediate risk to physical safety. **Restraint in a prone or supine position (i.e., with the child/youth lying on the stomach or back, respectively) is prohibited.** See also [WAC 388-148-0480 through 0490](#) for requirements for licensed residential settings.
3. Mechanical restraint that limits the child/youth's free movement or prevents self-injurious behavior (e.g., a helmet for head-banging, arm splints for biting, etc.). **Mechanical restraint in a prone position (lying on the stomach) is prohibited.**

Note: Splints applied for purposes of physical therapy or other mechanical devices used to maintain proper body posture, wheelchair safety (e.g., seat belts or chest straps), and medically necessary devices used to protect a child/youth from accidental injury (e.g., helmets for children and youth with seizures, gait belts,





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**J. Components of a Physical Intervention Techniques System**

DDD requires that any physical intervention techniques system used by a service provider contain certain components. These requirements are described in Attachment B, *Necessary Components of a Physical Intervention Techniques System*.

1. Providers receiving physical intervention techniques training must complete the course of instruction and demonstrate competency before being authorized to use the techniques with children and youth; and
2. A review of de-escalation techniques and physical intervention techniques with all service providers and members of the child/youth's support team must occur annually before continuing to be used with the child/youth.

**DEFINITIONS**

**Aversive stimulation** means the application of a stimulus that is unpleasant to the child/youth (e.g., water mist to the face, unpleasant tastes applied directly to the mouth, noxious smells, etc.). *This procedure is prohibited.*

**Challenging Behavior** means actions by the child/youth that constitute a threat to the child/youth's health and safety, the health and safety of others in the environment, a persistent pattern of behaviors that inhibit the child/youth's functioning in public places and integration with the community, or uncontrolled symptoms of a physical or mental condition. These behaviors may have been present for long periods of time or have manifested as an acute onset.

**Child** means age three (3) to eighteen (18) years.

**Corporal punishment** means physical punishment of any kind. *This is prohibited.*

**Electric shock** means the application of an electric current or charge to any part of the body. *This procedure is prohibited.*

**Exclusionary Time Out** means the removal of a child/youth from a situation where positive reinforcement is available to an area where it is not, contingent on the occurrence of a specific behavior. This means a room used solely for the purpose of time out and where exiting the area is prevented. This procedure is considered highly restrictive and is permitted only with the specific written approval of the Division Director.

**Forced compliance** means using physical force to get a child/youth to do something he/she does not want to do. *This procedure is prohibited.*

**Locking a child/youth alone in a room** means egress is not possible. *This procedure is prohibited.*

**Mechanical restraint** means applying a device or object, which the child/youth cannot remove, to the child/youth's body that restricts his/her free movement.

**Overcorrection** means requiring a child/youth to clean or fix the environment more than necessary to restore it to its original state, and/or to repeatedly practice the correct way to do something as a consequence for having done something wrong. *This procedure is prohibited.*

**Physical intervention** means the use of a manual technique intended to interrupt or stop a behavior from occurring. Physical intervention includes using physical restraint to release or escape from a dangerous or potentially dangerous situation.

**Physical restraint** means physically holding or restraining all or part of a child/youth's body in a way that restricts the child/youth's free movement. This does not include briefly holding, without undue force, a child/youth in order to calm him/her, or holding a child/youth's hand to escort the child/youth safely from one area to another or using seatbelts for wheelchair safety.

**Physical or mechanical restraint in a prone position** means the child/youth is being restrained while lying on his/her stomach. *This procedure is prohibited.*

**Physical restraint in a supine position** means the child/youth is being restrained while lying on his/her back. *This procedure is prohibited.*

**Restrictive procedure** means a procedure that restricts a child/youth's freedom of movement, restricts access to the child/youth's property, requires a child/youth to do something which he/she does not want to do, or removes something the child/youth owns or has earned.

**Youth** means age 18 up to 21 years.

## **EXCEPTIONS**

- A. The agency, service provider, or other treatment professional requesting an ETP must complete DSHS 02-556, [\*Request for Exception to Policy for Use of Restrictive Procedures\*](#), and send the completed form with all its attachments to the CRM/SW. A signed consent form must accompany the request (see Attachment A, *Consent for Use of Restrictive Procedures Requiring an ETP*).
- B. Upon receipt of the ETP request packet, the CRM/SW will initiate the Restrictive Procedures ETP request in the Comprehensive Reporting and Assessment Evaluation (CARE) application as follows:
  1. Choose the ETR/ETP Category – Restrictive Procedures;
  2. Choose ETR/ETP Type – Restrictive Procedures;

3. Choose Related Assessment;
  4. Choose Date Range: Custom or Plan Period, as appropriate;
  5. Enter Request Description:
    - a. Describe the behaviors for which the restrictive procedure ETP is being requested;
    - b. Describe in one or two sentences the restrictive procedure ETP being requested;
    - c. Type the following: "Refer to request packet in file dated \_\_\_\_\_."
  6. Enter Justification for Request: "See request packet."
  7. Enter Alternatives Explored: "See request packet."
  8. Process to next level of review/approval based on the regional process.
  9. Print copy of ETP and attach to request packet for reviewer/approver.
- C. ETPs for restrictive procedures must be reviewed and approved or denied in writing by the DDD RA within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt of the request and required documentation.
- D. ETPs for use of restrictive procedures that require approval at the Division Director level must be submitted and approved by the Director prior to implementation.
- E. No exceptions for the use of prohibited physical interventions as described in this policy shall be granted.
- F. Any other exceptions to the requirements of this policy must have the prior written approval of the Division Director.

**SUPERSESSSION**

None

Approved: /s/ Linda Rolfe  
Director, Division of Developmental Disabilities

Date: June 1, 2009

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TITLE:

RESTRICTIVE PROCEDURES AND PHYSICAL  
INTERVENTIONS WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

POLICY 5.20


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*Attachment A - Consent for Use of Restrictive Procedures Requiring an ETP*

*Attachment B - Necessary Components of a Physical Intervention Techniques System*

ATTACHMENT A

CONSENT FOR USE OF RESTRICTIVE PROCEDURES REQUIRING AN ETP

 <p>Washington State Department of Social &amp; Health Services</p> <p>DDD Division of Developmental Disabilities</p>	<p><b>DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES CONSENT FOR USE OF RESTRICTIVE PROCEDURES REQUIRING AN ETP</b></p>	
<b>Client Name:</b>	<b>Date of Request:</b>	
<b>Target Behavior(s) (describe specific behaviors the plan is intended to address):</b>		
<b>Proposed Restrictive Procedure(s):</b>		
<p><u>In the attached Positive Behavior Support Plan (PBSP), clearly describe how and when the procedure(s) will be used, the criteria for termination of the procedure(s), the plan for recording the use and effectiveness of the procedure(s), and how the continued need for the procedure(s) will be assessed.</u></p>		
<b>Risks of proposed restrictive procedure(s):</b>		
<b>Risks of not using restrictive procedure(s):</b>		
<b>Why less restrictive procedures are not recommended:</b>		
<b>What are the alternatives to the proposed procedure(s):</b>		
<b>Approval of Program Administrator:</b>		
PRINT LEGAL NAME	EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE	DATE
<b>Consent to use procedures:</b>		
PRINT CLIENT LEGAL NAME	CLIENT SIGNATURE	DATE
PRINT LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE NAME	LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE	DATE
This consent is valid for ____ months (not to exceed 12 months).		
<b>Comments of client/legal representative:</b>		



## ATTACHMENT B

### NECESSARY COMPONENTS OF A PHYSICAL INTERVENTION TECHNIQUES SYSTEM

Physical intervention systems must include, at a minimum, the following training components:

1. Principles of positive behavior support, including respect and dignity;
2. Communication techniques to assist a child/youth to calm down and resolve problems in a constructive manner;
3. Techniques to prevent or avoid escalation of behavior prior to physical contact;
4. Techniques for providers and parents/guardians to use in response to their own feelings or expressions of fear, anger, or aggression;
5. Techniques for providers and parents/guardians to use in response to the child/youth's feelings of fear or anger;
6. Instruction that physical intervention techniques may not be modified except as necessary in consideration of individual disabilities, medical, health, and safety issues. An appropriate medical/health professional and a certified trainer or behavioral specialist must approve all modifications;
7. Evaluation of the safety of the physical environment at the time of the intervention;
8. Use of the least restrictive physical interventions depending upon the situation;
9. Clear presentation and identification of prohibited and permitted physical intervention techniques as outlined in this policy;
10. Discussion of the need to release a child/youth from physical restraint as soon as possible;
11. Instruction on how to support physical interventions as an observer and recognize signs of distress by the child/youth and fatigue by the staff; and
12. Discussion of the importance of complete and accurate documentation by service providers.