

# DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES Olympia, Washington

TITLE: POSSESSION OF WEAPONS IN DDD FUNDED COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

POLICY 6.07

Authority: Chapter 71A RCW

Chapter 388-101 WAC

Developmental Disabilities

Certified Community Residential Services and

Support

### **PURPOSE**

A primary goal of providing residential support services is to ensure that eligible clients of the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) who receive such services have the opportunity to live in a safe and healthy environment. Possession of weapons that have the capacity to inflict bodily harm or injury may be incompatible with this goal. When providing paid support to voluntary program participants, the Division must balance the rights of individual participants with the safety of others, including housemates, staff and community members.

### **SCOPE**

This policy applies to the following DDD community residential services programs and all adult clients age 18 and over who receive services in these programs:

- Supported Living (SL);
- Group Homes (GH);
- Group Training Homes (GTH); and
- State Operated Living Alternatives (SOLA).

### **DEFINITIONS**

**Weapon** means any object, instrument, explosive, or chemical that is: 1) designed to inflict harm or injury to another person; and/or 2) used in a manner threatening harm or inflicting injury to another person. This includes, but is not limited to, firearms, swords, knives (other than kitchen knives), bows and arrows, or other similar weapons.

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**Secured** means the weapon is stored and locked in a gun safe, lock box, or other locked storage location.

### **POLICY**

- A. The Division respects the rights of clients receiving DDD funded residential services to own and possess items of their choosing so long as those items do not create an unsafe, unhealthy, hostile or intimidating environment or otherwise impact the rights and safety of other clients.
- B. Residential service providers shall not facilitate a client's purchase or acquisition of weapons.
- C. Residential service providers shall not bring any weapons into a client's home or otherwise, use, show, or display weapons in the presence of a client.

### **PROCEDURES**

- A. Service providers who become aware that a client who is receiving community residential services is in possession of a weapon (see Definitions section) or planning to obtain one must report the existence of the weapon and any extenuating circumstances to the Residential Resource Manager. The report should include details regarding how the weapon is secured in the residence to avoid accidental use by other residents or people other than the owner of the weapon.
- B. Upon receiving notice from the service provider, the Regional Resource Manager and the Regional Administrator must consult with the Assistant Attorney General (AAG) for the purpose of balancing safety and the rights of the client's housemates and safety of support staff.

### **EXCEPTIONS**

No exceptions to the requirements of this may be allowed without the prior written approval of the Division Director.

#### **SUPERSESSION**

None

Approved: /s/ Linda Rolfe Date: July 1, 2011

Director, Division of Developmental Disabilities