

# Hebrew Home at Riverdale

## Administrative Policy and Procedure Manual

Subject: Resident Sexual Expression	Policy No.:	Page 1 of 2
Issued:	Date Issued: 10/25/2000	
Approved:	Date Revised: 1/09/17	

**POLICY** The Hebrew Home at Riverdale recognizes and respects the importance of emotional and physical intimacy without regard to sexual orientation or gender.

For the purpose of this Policy, sexual expression is defined as words, gestures, movements or activities (including touching, flirting, proximity and physical contact, dressing up or reading) which appear motivated by the desire for affection, relationship, intimacy, and/or sexual gratification.

In this regard, residents have the right to seek out and engage in consensual sexual expression with other residents or visitors. Residents have the right to access and/or obtain for private use, materials with but sexually explicit content: books, magazines, film, video, audio, pictures, or drawings. To the extent possible, residents also have the right of access to a private space in support of sexual expression.

For persons who are cognitively impaired the Interdisciplinary Care Team will determine the relative benefit or potential harm regarding sexual expression, and develop an individualized care plan. In this process, the involvement of a health care agent may be warranted in instances where the involved resident is cognitively impaired.

It is the function and responsibility of the staff to uphold and facilitate resident sexual expression, and the responsibility of the facility to provide comprehensive and culturally sensitive staff training and resources to the extent possible to ensure the resident's right to privacy and safe and healthy sexual expression, and to protect residents from sexual harassment and abuse.

This policy is guided by the laws of the State of New York.

### **PURPOSE**

1. To ensure that residents' right to safe and healthy sexual expression is recognized, respected, supported and maintained.
2. To ensure that in instances with cognitively impaired residents, that a designated health care agent may be involved, and consent is appropriately assessed.
- 3.) To ensure that to the extent possible the facility protects the resident's right to privacy which supports resident sexual expression.
- 4.) To ensure staff uphold and support resident sexual expression as defined and described in this Policy.

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### PROCEDURE

Responsibility	Action
<b>Sexual Expression Between Cognitively Intact Residents</b>	
<b>Interdisciplinary Care Team</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In these situations, staff will not intervene unless to:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) recommend appropriate use of private space to the extent it is available;</li> <li>b) provide consultation and support regarding sexual expression to resident(s) upon their request, and as needed;</li> <li>c) documents in medical record as needed.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>Sexual Expression Involving Residents With Cognitive Impairment and/or Impaired Judgement</b>	
<b>Interdisciplinary Care Team</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. In situations where it may not be clear that the sexual expression is between consenting adults, or that the sexual activity is impacting negatively on the resident community as a whole, investigates, assesses, and makes a clinical judgement regarding the relative benefits and potential harm associated with the sexual expression.</li> <li>3. In instances in which the sexual expression does not appear consensual, or is impacting negatively upon the community, makes an immediate intervention with an emphasis upon diversion.</li> <li>4. Informs and involves the residents' health care agent regarding possible course of action to be taken.</li> <li>5. Develops a care plan and updates on a quarterly basis.</li> </ol>