

BACI Life Sharing Abuse and Neglect of Adults – Procedure and Expectations

Overview:

Life Sharing Providers, Respite Providers and others who are involved in the lives of the people we serve are often in positions of trust and authority over the people served. Some of the people we serve have physical and cognitive limitations that make them unable to protect themselves or look after all their own needs. These circumstances make them vulnerable to abuse and neglect.

The procedures and expectations listed below are intended to guide Life Sharing Providers and Respite Providers in:

- (1) dealing with suspicions of abuse;
- (2) reports of abuse or neglect;
- (3) handling situations where abuse or neglect has occurred or might occur.

Life Sharing is funded by CLBC; the intent is to provide direction, which is consistent with the Community Support Services Policy Manual.

BACI's Commitment:

The Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion (BACI) will support people in a safe, positive, and nurturing manner at all times. The support will be free of any abuse, neglect, and/or harm to the people supported. BACI is committed to the safe care of the people receiving support and will not tolerate any form of abuse, neglect and/or harm. If a person receiving support is at risk or the victim of abuse, harm, and/or neglect, BACI will take every measure to ensure the person is safe and no longer at risk.

Definition and Categories of Abuse:

1. Definition

Abuse is an action, inaction or behavior that may result in physical, sexual, emotional, or mental harm to a person.

2. Categories of Abuse

Physical

- Assault (for example: slapping, hitting, kicking, punching);
- Rough handling without regard for the person's comfort (for example: unnecessary force applied during lifts, transfers, and activities of daily living);
- Physical neglect (for example: withholding food or personal or medical care).

Psychosocial

- Verbal or emotional abuse (for example: yelling, making demeaning or derogatory remarks, teasing, swearing, and/or name-calling.);
- Psychosocial neglect (for example: lack of attention, isolation, confinement);
- Setting people up for ridicule or scorn by peers or others;

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- Interactions that are, or could reasonably be interpreted as, disrespectful.

Financial

- Misuse of a person's finances for inappropriate purposes (for example: comforts for food or benefits normally provided by the Life Sharing Provider);
- Theft of money or personal property;
- Fraud, which is deceitful manipulation of finances;
- Solicitation for compensation.

Sexual Abuse/Assault

- Any form of sexual conduct by force or threat of force;
- Any form of sexual contact;
- Any attempt to engage in sexual activities;
- Unnecessary disregard for privacy;
- Unnecessary touching of a person's private parts.

Medication Abuse

- Medicating or sedating unnecessarily;
- Over-sedation or non-compliance with medication refills;
- Misuse of a person's medications and prescriptions; withholding medication
- Misuse of non-prescription medications.

Violation of Rights

- Denial of basic civil/human rights.

Neglect

- Intentional neglect: willful withholding of basic necessities and care;
- Unintentional neglect: withholding of basic necessities and care, usually due to a lack of experience or information;
- Failure to respond to a person's need for discussion, inclusion, or routine interaction on a daily basis.

BACI's Responsibilities:

BACI will provide services in an environment that is safe and free from any abuse or neglect.

BACI will report allegations of abuse to family members and appropriate authorities.

BACI will ensure the investigation of any allegations of abuse. To ensure that people are supported without fear of abuse, every effort will be made to ensure that all reported incidents are investigated and dealt with quickly. We will try to maintain confidentiality, but it cannot be guaranteed as there are limits and we may need to share with other investigating bodies.

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BACI will take any necessary action to ensure that people are and feel safe and secure and that abuse does not reoccur. Any Life Sharing Provider who, upon investigation, has abused or neglected a person that we serve will face consequences up to and including the immediate termination of the contract.

Life Sharing Providers and Respite Providers – Procedure and Expectations:

Life Sharing Providers and Respite Providers who suspect that abuse or neglect has occurred have the responsibility to report their suspicions immediately to the LSN Manager and ensure the person's safety.

Life Sharing Providers and Respite Providers who know or could reasonably be expected to know about an incident of abuse or neglect and who do not report it will be treated as having aided the abuse or neglect and will face disciplinary measures up to and including termination of the contract.