

9.8 Sexual Health Policy – Adult Services

Overview

People with disabilities have the same rights and responsibilities as all citizens. This includes rights related to their sexuality, relationships and gender identity.

This policy applies to adults served by BACI, employees and Life Sharing Providers who may be providing direct support related to people's sexuality, sexual health, relationships and personal autonomy.

This policy supports BACI's commitment and belief that every person's sexuality, sexual health and reproductive rights are respected, supported and facilitated in a safe, well-informed and stigma-free environment.

BACI supports people's rights to be in healthy relationships and to express their sexuality. BACI is also committed to upholding people's rights to engage in private consensual sexual activity while ensuring access to comprehensive sexual health information and services.

This policy also outlines the responsibilities of BACI's employees and Life Sharing Providers to safeguard these rights and promote education, autonomy, dignity and well-being for people supported in our services.

Staff Responsibilities and Guidelines

BACI's employees and Life Sharing Providers are expected to respect and uphold each person's sexual rights and autonomy.

Employees and Life Sharing Providers are responsible for recognizing their own personal values and biases. When people served express sexual interests or behaviours that may require support and/or education, an employee will bring this information forward to their program Supervisor or Manager and document it to ensure appropriate support, education, planning and/or discussion. Life Sharing Providers may also bring this forward to their Life Sharing Manager.

If a BACI employee has reservations, discomfort or objections to offering certain supports related to a person's sexual health and expressed interests, these concerns must be brought forward to their Supervisor or Manager to be addressed and to ensure the person's personal expectations and choices are met. If this occurs for a Life Sharing Provider, they must contact their Life Sharing Manager.

Confidentiality and Documentation

Any information shared, collected and/or documented must be consented to by the person served, be kept confidential and be respectful of the privacy of the person, in accordance with BACI's Privacy and Rights Policies.

Resources and Training Materials

BACI will provide up-to-date and relevant resources and training for employees working in Adult Services with regards to supporting people with their sexual health rights, consent and stigma-free practices. Life Sharing Providers will be supported to access resources and training as needed.

Linking Policies

- 1.1 Vision & Mission Statements
- 1.2 Guiding Principles
- 1.8 Code of Ethics
- 7.2 Individual Support Planning
- 8.1 Privacy Protection for People Receiving Service
- 9.1 Rights & Responsibilities of People with Disabilities
- 9.4 Promoting Friendships of People with Disabilities
- 9.5 Involvement in Decision Making