

SAFETY CONTROL

POLICY

(Ref. 10 CCR 2505-10 8.608.4)

A safety control procedure is a restrictive procedure, which may be used to control a previously exhibited behavior that is anticipated to occur again. Safety control procedures are those in which immediate restrictive intervention is necessary to protect an individual receiving services or others from physical injury. A safety control procedure will be developed when it is anticipated that there will be a need to use restrictive procedures or restraints to control a previously exhibited behavior which is likely to occur again. Safety control procedures shall be employed only when absolutely necessary and when alternative techniques have failed. Safety control procedures shall not be used as punishment, for convenience of staff or contractual providers, or as a substitute for services, supports, or instruction.

Safety control procedures are specific to an individual and shall only be used upon recommendation of the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) which has developed the planned safety control procedure.

Safety control procedures shall be in a written plan, developed by the IDT. The plan will identify the specific behaviors that warrant implementation of a safety control procedure. The plan will specify the least restrictive method, which may be used to assist the individual in regaining control over his/her behavior. If physical restraint is recommended in the plan, the specific behaviors warranting its use and the specific type of physical restraint and procedures to be used shall be identified.

NO PHYSICAL OR MECHANICAL RESTRAINT OF AN INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING SERVICES SHALL PLACE EXCESS PRESSURE ON THE CHEST OR BACK OR INHIBIT OR IMPEDE THE INDIVIDUAL'S ABILITY TO BREATHE.

If use of a "quiet area" is recommended in the written plan, the following applies:

- An individual shall not be forced to go to a quiet area;
- If the quiet area is a separate room, the door must be open or left ajar;
- The individual shall be monitored, by staff or the contractual provider, to ensure against injury to him/herself;
- If the person chooses to leave the quiet area, he/she must be permitted to leave;
- Quiet areas shall be free of safety hazards, ventilated and well lit.

If the use of mechanical restraints is recommended in the written plan, the following applies:

- Use of helmets, jumpsuits, and gloves for the purposes of behavior control are considered a restrictive procedure.

The specific behaviors warranting use of mechanical restraints, the type of restraint and the length of time it can be used shall be in the written plan.

The use of Posey vests, strait jackets, ankle or wrist restraints, and the use of a behavior management room are prohibited.

Whenever a safety control procedure is used, MSS staff or contractual providers shall document on an incident report, and verbally notify the North Metro Community Services Resource Coordinator within twenty-four (24) hours. An incident report shall be sent to NMCS within three (3) days.

MSS requires that Host Home Providers are trained in behavior management techniques by certified instructors when working with individuals with challenging behaviors.