

COMMUNITY LIVING BRANT POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Abuse Policy 8.19 Factors to Reduce the Risk of Abuse

The best way to prevent abuse is to meaningfully include people with developmental disabilities in regular community life, as neighbours, co-workers, volunteers and friends. This requires a shift in thinking, away from a “person supported” perspective and towards a citizen perspective, by:

- Seeing people from a positive perspective of capacities and gifts, not deficits and needs.
- Striving for a quality life, which is defined by the person based on interests, dreams and desires.
- Being involved in the community, where people can get to know the person.
- Supporting the person to lead, with the support of families and having paid staff play a support role to the extent necessary.
- Assisting people to understand their right to be treated with dignity and respect, how to recognize abuse and know what action to take.

Many adults with developmental disabilities require the assistance of paid supports to live, work and participate in the community. The following types of support reduce the risk of abuse to people who receive services:

- Assist people to be fully included and live meaningful lives in the community.
- Adequate, flexible and individualized, while being responsive to personal and family changes, as well as community dynamics.
- Assist people to maintain and build their connections and relationships with family, friends and other community members and should not define all aspects of the person’s life.
- Recognize the potential of individuals and provide them with opportunities for continuing growth, personal development and life-long learning.
- Respond to the direction determined by individuals, their families and guardians, being careful to follow their lead, rather than taking control

*From the Alberta Seniors and Community Supports for Persons with Developmental Disabilities Program ,
“Abuse Prevention and Response Protocol” , 2003*