

ISSUE DATE
April 13, 2018

EFFECTIVE DATE
April 13, 2018

NUMBER
00-18-01

SUBJECT

Guidelines Concerning Sexual Health, Personal Relationships, and Sexuality

BY



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SCOPE:

Individuals and Families
Administrative Entity Administrators or Directors
County Mental Health/Intellectual Disability Program Administrators or Directors
Supports Coordination Organization Administrators or Directors
Providers of Targeted Support Management
Providers of Consolidated, Person/Family Directed Support, Community Living, and Adult Autism Waiver Services
Providers of Adult Community Autism Program Services

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to distribute "Sexual Health, Personal Relationships, and Sexuality Guidelines" and encourage provider agencies to develop policies consistent with the Guidelines.

BACKGROUND:

In 2016, the Office of Developmental Programs contracted with the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University to form a cross-system, statewide committee of individuals with disabilities, professionals, family members, provider organizations, educators, medical professionals, and direct care staff to review and update the Department's Guidelines Concerning Sexuality, which were distributed in 1996. The committee has developed "Sexual Health, Personal Relationships and Sexuality Guidelines" to support the sexual health and relationships of individuals with disabilities.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate Regional Office of Developmental Programs

Visit the Office of Developmental Programs Web site at
<http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/developmentalprograms/index.htm>

DISCUSSION:

Sexuality at its core is a natural and integral part of who we are. It begins at birth and extends over our life span. It influences how we feel about ourselves and our relationships. The Guidelines are being issued to:

- Promote an environment where individuals with disabilities can pursue personal relationships and their sexuality.
- Promote an environment where individuals with disabilities can receive objective, non-judgmental, comprehensive information regarding sexual health and relationships.
- Establish an expectation that provider agencies develop policies on sexual health, personal relationships, and sexuality consistent with the Guidelines.

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment 1 - Sexual Health, Personal Relationships, and Sexuality Guidelines

OBSOLETE BULLETIN:

Bulletin 00-96-23, "*Guidelines Concerning Sexuality*," issued December 31, 1996