

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that legal and administrative requirements are observed, documentation standards are met, and the admission, readmission or interfacility transfer to a developmental centre is in the best interests of the adult with a mental disability. The policy addresses the following:

- Admission - a process of acceptance and placement of an individual in a developmental centre where there has been no previous history of placement in the centre;
- Interfacility transfer - a process of planning and placement of an individual from a developmental centre to an alternate developmental centre;
- Readmission - a process of acceptance and placement of an individual in a developmental centre where there has been a previous admission history to that centre; and
- Respite - the temporary placement of an individual in a developmental centre where it is determined that the provision of respite is a support service required by the individual to facilitate their ongoing accommodation in the community.

POLICY

An application for placement of an individual in a developmental centre will only be undertaken where it is determined that reasonable efforts have been made to find a suitable alternative placement, that the placement is in the best interests of the individual and that a developmental centre has indicated a willingness to accept the individual.

Consideration for admission, readmission or interfacility transfer to a developmental centre will be guided by the centre's ability to offer services and supports which address the needs of the individual.

Consistent with The Vulnerable Persons Living with a Mental Disability Act, the following are policies for admission to a developmental centre:

GENERAL ASPECTS

1. The individual must be a vulnerable person, in accordance with the Act.
2. A court order approval is required prior to admission of an individual to a developmental centre except for the following:
 - respite;
 - continued placement;
 - readmission within a 6 month period from discharge; and

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- where an individual without a substitute decision maker for personal care submits an application to a developmental centre for admission.
3. The Vulnerable Persons' Commissioner may approve the continued placement in a developmental centre of an individual who resided in a developmental centre immediately prior to proclamation of the Act.
 4. Application to court for a prospective admission should be preceded by planning between those seeking admission and the developmental centre. The developmental centre will have expressed a prior willingness to accept the individual.
 5. Acceptance of an individual by a developmental centre will not mandate additional services or supports beyond the capacity of existing resources and priorities.
 6. No individual will be considered for placement in a developmental centre until the necessary documentation (available at the centre) is received by the centre.
 7. Where a request for admission to a developmental centre is precipitated by the individual's clinical status (behavioural or medical), a formal clinical assessment by a recognized clinician in the area of concern will be required.
 8. Where an individual has been assigned a substitute decision maker, temporary placement in a developmental centre for respite purposes will only be considered for a period not exceeding three weeks in a one-year period.

ADMISSIONS INITIATED BY SUBSTITUTE DECISION MAKER (SDM)*

* *Refers to a SDM for personal care who has been granted the power to decide where the adult with a mental disability is to live (refer to Section C144A).*

1. A SDM may apply to the Commissioner for approval for the temporary placement of an individual in a developmental centre. Application forms are available at the commissioner's office. The total duration of temporary placement (both single and cumulative respite) cannot exceed three weeks per year.
2. For placement other than described in point #1 above, a SDM will not be permitted to place the individual in a developmental centre without first obtaining the approval of the Court of Queen's Bench. The approval of the court may be sought by filing a notice of application in the court with supporting documentation (i.e., evidence to satisfy a judge that the criteria for admission to a developmental centre are met). Where the court grants an Order approving the individual's placement in a developmental centre, the SDM must provide a copy of the Order to the Commissioner.
3. A SDM who has given consent for the individual to leave the developmental centre and live elsewhere may return the individual to the centre within six months of discharge without court or Commissioner approval. A request to return an individual to a developmental centre within six months of discharge will require the centre, in liaison with the SDM and community service

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providers, to determine the most appropriate course of action to be taken in the best interests of the individual. However, where specific potential risks were identified in the discharge plan, a request to readmit an individual to a developmental centre within six months of discharge will be accommodated.

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