

Dignity of Risk

POLICY

Consumers have the right to make their own decisions and to act independently, even when those actions may involve an element of risk to themselves.

Staff must consider the consumer's 'dignity of risk' – their right to make decisions for themselves and balance the benefits of activities against the possible dangers.

PROCEDURES

When considering the consumer's dignity of risk staff will:

1. Assess:
 - a) The consumer's awareness of the risk.
 - b) The likelihood of the foreseeable harm occurring.
 - c) The seriousness of the risks involved.

Table 1: Risk Category Table

		CONSEQUENCE				
		Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Extreme
LIKELIHOOD	Almost certain (More than 9 times out of 10)	Medium	Medium	High	Critical	Critical
	Likely (Between 5 and 9 times out of 10)	Low	Medium	High	High	Critical
	Possible (Between 2 and 5 times out of 10)	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High
	Unlikely (Between 1 and 2 times out of 10)	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
	Rare (Less than 1 time out of 10)	Low	Low	Low	Medium	High

Table 2: Consequence Rating Table

Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Extreme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less than first aid injury or Brief emotional disturbance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First aid injury or Emotional disturbance impacting more than two days – does not require treatment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantial injury resulting in medical treatment or Temporary impairment or Development / exacerbation of mental illness requiring treatment or Some cases of abuse/neglect of the person. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant injury causing permanent impairment or Severe, long lasting or significant exacerbation of mental illness requiring long-term treatment or Significant faults allowing significant abuse/neglect of people receiving support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoidable death of a person or Systemic faults allowing widespread abuse/neglect of people receiving support.

2. Provide the consumer with neutral information about the foreseeable harm and/or benefit.
3. Consider the risks versus the rights of the consumer.
 - Risks – ‘If I fail to take care of this situation, is it likely to lead to some sort of injury to another person?’
 - Rights – ‘Are my actions likely to deprive the consumer of their rights?’
4. Support the consumer to exercise choice and make independent decisions.
5. Do what is reasonable to avoid injury by:
 - a) Adjusting activities or situations to minimise foreseeable harm.
 - b) Empowering the consumer to take control and responsibility for risky situations.
 - c) Safeguard others from injury.
6. Record the dignity of risk situation on the Dignity of Risk Decision Making Agreement and ensure the consumer and/or representative signs to acknowledge that they understand the risks and that their behaviour must not pose a risk to any other person.

Date approved:	June 2019	By Department:	Executive		
To be reviewed:	June 2022	By Department:	CC Executive	Key changes:	Nil
Date approved	June 2022	Approved by	Maralee Vogel	Key changes	
To be reviewed	June 2025				