Good Old Days II
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RESIDENTIAL ELOPEMENT POLICY

Objective:
Facility administration and staff recognize the elopement poses a real danger to certain residents. The objectives of this policy are to define elopement, provide guidance in assessing and identifying residents or new admission at risk for elopement, to prevent elopement, and to minimize harm if a resident does elope.

Definitions:
Elopement: means an occurrence in which a resident leaves the facility without following policy and procedure. Persons who elope differ from wanderers in that they are purposeful and may repeatedly attempt to leave.

Wandering: meandering, aimless, or repetitive locomotion that may expose the individual to harm, may or may not be goal-directed.

Admissions:
Our facility's resident elopement response policy will be included in the admission package. All new admissions assessed as at risk for elopement will have a recent photo provided to, or taken by, the facility within 10 calendar days of admission.

Resident Assessment:
All residents at risk for elopement or with any history of elopement shall be identified so staff can be alerted to their needs for support and supervision.

At risk indicators include:

- History of wandering/elopement
- Changes in mental status
- Cognitive impairments, including memory loss, decreased awareness, and disturbances in judgement, reasoning, and perception.

- Premorbid lifestyle factors; there is evidence that an active interest in music, social, and leisure activities may contribute to the tendency to wander (DW Thomas 1999); further, persons who have experienced life-threatening or stressful events in the past as well as persons who respond to stressful situations with more physicality are more likely to wander (Cohen-Mansfield 1991)
- Causes for restlessness, including the effects of medication and clinical diagnoses
- Depression
- A functional assessment of communication ability, hearing, and gait

General Policy & Procedure

This facility shall make, at a minimum, a daily effort to determine that at risk residents have identification on their body – that include their name and the facility's name, address, and telephone number. Caregivers attention shall be directed towards residents assessed at high risk for elopement, with special attention given to those residents with dementia and related disorders assessed at high risk. If a current resident is assessed as a risk for elopement, the facility shall obtain or take a current photo and have it placed in the resident's file within 10 calendar days of the assessment.

Facility Administrator is responsible for checking resident identification especially the current photograph gets in the resident's file within 10 calendar days.

Record-keeping

The facility will keep a current copy of the facility's resident elopement policies and procedures in the facility records. The facility will also document the resident elopement response drills and maintain this documentation in the facility records. The Facility Administrator will be responsible for ensuring that these records are in place.

Resident Elopement Response Policy

After **30 minutes** in which a resident has not been accounted for, a resident shall be considered as having possibly eloped and the following procedure will be initiated.

Step One: Caregiver on duty will check the facility sign in and sign out log. If there is no documentation of the residents leaving. Caregiver will ask other caregivers if they know the whereabouts of the residents. If nobody knows then follow step 2.

Step 2: Caregiver on duty will start searching the resident inside the facility. Ensure that the rest of the facility's residents remain safe while search is being conducted.

Caregiver will start from: a)the resident's room b)nearby bathroom c)nearby rooms d) bathrooms e)living room/s f)kitchen g)walk-in pantry h)dining area i)all common areas j)stairwells k)laundry l)basement m)garage n)roofs o)backyard p)front yard q)storage shed, etc. Make sure to fan out the entire facility. If the resident is still missing then follow step 3.

Step 3: Lead Caregiver on duty will ask his/her fellow caregiver to take charge of the facility and Lead Caregiver will expand the search to include the surrounding grounds, streets and neighborhood.
Note: If there is only one caregiver on duty – **Do not leave the facility and jeopardize the care and safety of the other residents.** Call the Administrator and follow his/her instructions. (If the resident is still missing follow step 4.

Step 4: If the Administrator is not in the facility; Lead Caregiver will call him and informed him about the elopement incident. Administrator will direct the caregiver to do the following:

- Call 911 or local law enforcement and inform them about the incident.
  Make sure to pull out the resident file which include the resident's latest photographs and his/her basic descriptions and health conditions.

- Call all the hospitals in the vicinity and ask if they have admitted the resident of the Facility.

- Check with transportation company if they have booked a passenger under the resident's name.

- If the resident once lived elsewhere, check their old place of residence

- Notify the resident's relative, POA, Guardian and social worker regarding the elopement incident.

- Once local law enforcement arrives, report the elopement, and follow their instructions.

- Complete an incident report and make sure to clearly describe and document everything and furnish a copy to the : **Aging and Disability Services Division**
  9670 Gateway Dr., Suite 200
  Reno, Nevada 89521
  P: 775/687-0851 F:775/688-2905

- When the resident is located, the Facility Administrator will be responsible for notifying the family members, law enforcement, if necessary, and all other stakeholders.

Drills

The Facility staff shall demonstrate an understanding and competency in the implementation of the elopement policies and procedures. Resident elopement drills shall be conducted every quarter of the year. The Administrator, owner and caregivers must participate in the drills which shall include a review of procedures to address resident elopement. Facility must document the implementation of the drills and ensure that the drills are conducted in a manner consistent with the facility's resident elopement policies and procedures. Participation in these drills shall be documented and kept in the staff records. Discrepancies and/or weaknesses revealed through the drills will be corrected.

Staff Training

All facility staff shall receive in-service training regarding the facility's resident elopement policies within 30 days of employment. All staff shall be given a copy of our resident elopement policies and procedures.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

I have a copy, read and understand the Facility's Residential Elopement Policy and Procedures:

_____ _____

EMPLOYEE ADMINISTRATOR/REPRESENTATIVE

_____

DATE