

<i>Child Protection Act R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. C-5.1</i>	Program	Children in Care	
	Subject	Safety Checks in Residential Services	Policy # 2.12
Effective Date: April 16, 2014		Authorized by: Carol Anne Duffy	
Revised Date:		Deputy Minister	

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The Director of Child Protection, as legal guardian for children in care, is responsible to provide safe and secure living environments for all children residing in Residential Services. Safety is enhanced by controlling access to potentially harmful items.

2.0 POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.1 Upon admission to Residential Services, children and/or parent(s) will be advised that, for safety reasons, Residential Services staff may conduct safety checks, to include child bedroom and personal belonging searches, for the removal of potentially dangerous items.
- 2.2 Children living in Residential Services are prohibited to possess the following items: lighters and matches; solvents; toxic glues; aerosol products; knives; sharps; prescription/non-prescription drugs (access and distribution controlled by staff); illegal drugs; alcohol; weapons; and/or, additional items where Residential Services staff believe the item is potentially dangerous and/or a threat to safety.
- 2.3 A least intrusive and respectful approach for ensuring safety will be employed by Residential Services staff at all times.
- 2.4 Discussion with the child, as appropriate, regarding the safety concern and the option of voluntarily providing items of concern to staff is preferred.
- 2.5 Residential Services staff are authorized, if deemed necessary, to conduct safety checks to include bedroom and personal belonging searches and to remove prohibited and/or potentially dangerous items.
- 2.6 Safety checks will be performed in a respectful manner, protecting the privacy of the child and care of their personal belongings. Whenever possible, the child should not be present. In the case of imminent risk and the child is present, every attempt should be made to keep the child away from the area during the safety check.

- 2.7 Residential Services staff will follow appropriate Youth Worker training and adhere to Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (NVCI) procedures.
- 2.8 All prohibited items (as documented in House Rules provided to all child residents) and/or potentially dangerous items provided by child residents, and/or items retrieved through staff safety checks, will be safely secured and recorded to include storage location.
- 2.9 In the event Residential Services staff recover an illegal item(s), Police Services will be contacted and the item(s) provided to Police.
- 2.10 Whenever possible, two Residential Services staff should be present during all safety checks.
- 2.11 All safety checks must be documented to include reason safety check required, identification of staff present and results of safety check.

3.0 REFERENCES

After Hours Emergency Child Protection Service 1.11
Apprehension 1.9
Voluntary Agreement for Temporary Custody and Guardianship 1.7