

<i>Child Protection Act R.S.P.E.I 1988, Cap. C-5.1</i>	Program	Children in Care	
	Subject	Water Activities	Policy # 2.5
Effective Date: July 5, 2010		Authorized by:	
Revised Date: July 18, 2013		Deputy Minister	

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The Director of Child Protection is responsible to exercise due diligence to ensure the safety of children in care participating in water related activities.

2.0 POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.1 Children in care need opportunities to experience recreational and developmentally appropriate activities in a safe and supervised environment.
- 2.2 Children in care will participate in water activities only when a certified lifeguard is present.
- 2.3 Children residing in foster care may participate in water activities where no lifeguard is available only under the direct supervision of their Foster Parent who is able to provide lifesaving and water rescue service, or the Foster Parent **and** another adult who is able to provide lifesaving and water rescue service.
- 2.4 Adult supervision, preferably the child's Foster Parent or an employee of Child & Family Services, is required at all times regardless of the child's age or swimming ability even when a lifeguard is on duty.
- 2.5 Children in care will not participate in water activities in areas known to have additional risk factors such as riptides and undertows, or when surf conditions are posted/publically advertised as unsafe.
- 2.6 Children in care participating in boating activities must **wear** an approved personal floatation device.

- 2.7 The Child Protection Social Worker is responsible for collecting information regarding the child's water activity experience and ability, knowledge of water safety, and/or fear of water. This information, along with identified special needs and behaviors of the child that may impact the child's ability to safely participate in water activities, must be communicated to the child's caregiver and documented on the child's file.
- 2.8 The caregiver is responsible for determining the level of risk involved in the water activity such as, but not limited to, surf conditions, impending weather, qualifications of the water craft operator, safety features of the water craft, and availability of personal floatation devices.
- 2.9 The caregiver is responsible for exercising due diligence in making appropriate decisions for the child based on their knowledge of the child and the level of risk involved in the water activity.

HISTORY:

July 18, 2013 - Editorial and format changes