

## DDD PREVENTION BULLETIN | WALKAWAY



**WALKAWAY** refers to the act of an individual who leaves the premises without authorization or appropriate supervision. The individual may be at risk without supervision and/or considered dangerous to self, others, or property. A call to local law enforcement is to be made when the individual cannot be located after an initial search of the premises.

### Assessment and Intervention

- Complete a functional behavior assessment (FBA) to help determine why the behavior is occurring (escape, access to tangibles, sensory, attention).
- Create person-centered behavior interventions based on the results of the FBA to decrease walkaway behavior. Incorporate the interventions in the individual's Behavior Support Plan (BSP).
- Document walkaway behavior in the individual's ISP.
- Develop an emergency protocol plan for situations when an individual cannot be located. Ensure all staff are properly trained on these strategies.
- Human Rights Committee (HRC) must be consulted in licensed settings for:
  - ◆ Wearable technology for tracking purposes.
  - ◆ Use cell phone for tracking purposes.

### Safety Measures

- Use an unsupervised time assessment to identify the appropriate supervision level.
- Inform local authorities if an individual is prone to walkaway behavior.
- Keep an updated picture of the individual to share with first responders.
- Be mindful of what the individual is wearing daily.
- Make a list of locations that the individual frequents.
- Develop relationships with neighbors and provide pertinent contact information.

### Environmental Recommendations

- Position staff near exits during overnight hours.
- Station motion cameras and lights around the perimeter.
- Provide a fenced-in gate to deter backyard walkaways.
- Office of Licensing (OOL) and HRC must be consulted in licensed settings for:
  - ◆ Placing non-shrill alert chimes on doors and window.
  - ◆ Utilizing surveillance cameras in common areas.
- Rationale for all of these items must be documented in the ISP.



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## Law Enforcement Notification and Human Services Police Notification



### When to call 911 or local law enforcement

- If the individual cannot be located after an initial search of the premises.
- If the individual cannot be followed after exiting the premises due to the supervision needs of the other individuals in the home.
- If the individual is followed after exiting the premises but the follower loses sight of the individual.
- An individual does not return to the premises following the allotted unsupervised time in the community.

For law enforcement notification, make sure to document the date and time the notification was made, the name of the police precinct, the name of the officer who took the report, and the police report number.

The **Human Service Police (HSP)** should also be notified and can be contacted at **609-633-1935**. The HSP needs to know the Individual's name and address, description of the incident including date, time, and location when the individual was noted as missing, name of the involved Law Enforcement entity that is involved, name and contact information for the responsible provider for additional information. Document the name, date, and time of the HSP notification and the name of the officer who took the report.

### Incident Reporting:

- Report the incident to the **DDD Office of Risk Management (ORM)** as soon as possible or notify DDD On-call if the walkaway takes place after hours.
- Submit an incident report as soon as possible. Make sure the incident report is detailed oriented.
- Document the law enforcement notification and HSP notification in the incident report.
- Make sure all elements of the DDD ORM walkaway checklist are captured in the incident report.



**If you have any questions regarding this material or would like to schedule a training, please contact The DDD Resource Team at [ddd.resourceteam@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:ddd.resourceteam@dhs.nj.gov).**