Forward Integrated Services

REMOTE TRAINING, BEHAVIOR SUPPORT & GUIDANCE
FOR CARETAKERS, FAMILIES & THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY

Abuse and Neglect Policy and Agreement
Effective Date: 10/03/2022

Policy
It is the policy of Forward Integrated Services, Inc. (FIS, Inc.) that there shall be no abuse or neglect, whether physical, emotional or sexual of any child in its program. Forward Integrated Services, Inc. expects every parent/guardian and staff member to take reasonable steps to safeguard the welfare of its clients and to protect them from any kind of maltreatment. In addition, FIS, Inc. staff members shall not recommend nor will staff members engage in participant restraint or seclusion of any kind.

What is Abuse?
The depth and breadth of the problem of child abuse is far greater than can be effectively addressed within this resource. For our purposes, we must limit our focus to the prevention of child abuse in the client's home.

Types of Abuse
Generally, child abuse is categorized in four primary forms:

1. Physical Abuse
   a. Abuse in which a person deliberately and intentionally causes bodily harm to a child. Examples may include violent battery with a weapon (knife, belt, strap, etc.), burning, shaking, kicking, choking, fracturing bones, and any of a wide variety of non-accidental injuries to a child's body.
2. Emotional Abuse
   a. Abuse in which a person exposes a child to spoken and/or unspoken violence or emotional cruelty.
3. Neglect
   a. Abuse in which a person endangers a child's health, safety, or welfare through negligence. Neglect may include withholding food, clothing, medical care, education and even affection and affirmation of the child's self-worth. This is perhaps the most common form of abuse.
4. Sexual Abuse
   a. Abuse in which sexual contact between a child and an adult (or another older and more powerful youth) occurs. The child is never truly capable of consenting to or resisting such contact and/or such sexual acts. Often, the child is physically and psychologically dependent upon the perpetrator of the abuse. Examples of sexual abuse may include, but are not limited to, fondling, intercourse, incest and the exploitation of and exposure to child pornography or prostitution.

Prevention Guidelines

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In order to provide adequate supervision to ensure the safety and well-being of children participating in Forward Integrated Services, Inc. services, the following safety measures have been implemented:

- Parents/Guardians have the right to observe and monitor sessions at any time.
- All levels of staff have signed this policy stating they will not engage in any abuse or neglect when working with any client of Forward Integrated Services, Inc.
- All levels of staff are required by law to make a report to the county and/or the police if in the course of their professional duties, they have reasonable cause to suspect or reason to believe that a child has been abused or neglected.

I have read the above policy and its descriptions and agree to abstain from all types of abuse and neglect with all Forward Integrated Services, Inc. clients with whom I work and will follow the reporting procedures outlined above.

_____ _____

Staff Member Name Staff Member Signature

Date of Review: _____

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