

## Temporary Withdrawal of Service Due to Intoxication

### PURPOSE:

This policy is to give clear direction for staff as to when and why service can be temporarily withdrawn due to the intoxication of a client and what procedure is to be followed.

### SCOPE:

Breakaway Toowoomba Inc is committed to providing a healthy and safe workplace for all employees and clients. Staff members need to consider their safety at all times and be prepared to assess each support situation for any potential risks to themselves, the community and the client.

### POLICY:

Clients may have challenging behaviours due to their disabilities. Clients may also be under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, which could constitute a threat to the safety of the working environment.


Breakaway Toowoomba Inc recognises that clients over the age of 18 are able to consume alcohol should they so wish however Breakaway Toowoomba Inc acknowledges the serious risks to health and safety caused by the abuse of alcohol and increased risk to the safety of staff when working with intoxicated clients.

Illegal drugs and/or substances are viewed under this policy to be any substance which:

- a) is considered dangerous to a person's mental health or physical health which is not available over the counter in a retail establishment, or
- b) is prohibited from use under the Drugs Misuse Act (QLD) and the Criminal Code (QLD), or
- c) when used improperly gives the same type of effect to a person's mental or physical state as an illegal drug covered under the Drugs Misuse Act (QLD) and the Criminal Code (QLD) including prescription medication that is not prescribed for that client and other substances used incorrectly such as solvents.

Therefore, the types of illegal drugs/substances covered under this policy include but are not limited to:

- Heroin or any derived substance,
- Cocaine or any derived substance,
- Speed/amphetamines or any derived substance (Ice, Chrystal Meth),

Approved: ..........

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- Ecstasy or any related substances (GBH, Special K),
- Marijuana/Hashish,
- Acid/LSD/Trips,
- Glue and other solvents,
- Paint,
- Aerosol cans,
- Butane or any other type of lighter fluid or gas.

This policy also covers implements used to ingest illegal substances such as syringes, bonges and pipes.

## Withdrawal of Service

A staff member may notice a change in behaviour or appearance of the client that is not usual. Any change combined with evidence of substance abuse including but not limited to the smell of marijuana smoke or alcohol, residue of powders, not prescribed medication or other substances, and the presence of implements is enough for the staff member to withdraw service. If the client becomes aggressive or violent even without the evidence mentioned above the staff member is directed to withdraw service. If the staff member determines that a client is adversely affected by alcohol or any other drug the staff member is directed to do the following:

- Ensure that the immediate personal care needs of the client have been met,
- Communicate to the client that support will be immediately withdrawn due to suspected intoxication,
- Remove themselves from the premises or return with the client to their premises.

If incident occurs during business hours staff members should contact either one of the Supervisors or the Facilitator. If incident occurs after hours then staff members should telephone the On-Call number immediately. Client confidentiality should be maintained at all times and details of the incident should be included in a file note including a description of the observed behaviours, substances or implements

Approved (Executive Officer) David Bea Date 18.06.09

Approved (Chairperson) Paul O'Brien Date 18.06.09

Approved: OB

Reviewed 08<sup>th</sup> May 2009

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