

E.3: Out-of-territory placements

Unit: Disability Services	Effective date: February 18, 2022
Branch: Social Supports	Last updated: February 18, 2022
Policy number: E.3	Review date: February 18, 2024

Purpose

This policy describes the circumstances under which Disability Services considers out-of-territory placements for a client, the purpose of such placements, and considerations regarding repatriation to Yukon. This policy does not refer to placements that are mandated through a legal authority, such as the Yukon Review Board or *Mental Health Act*.

Refer to policy E.1: Adult Resource Placement Committee and placement for more information and guidance on in-territory placements.

Policy

1. Disability Services (DS) is committed to placing clients in the territory wherever possible, as it allows the client to remain near family and friends, and continue with familiar routines. However, there may be situations where local resources cannot adequately meet a client's needs, and DS must consider an out-of-territory (OOT) placement.
2. DS may consider OOT placements for clients aged 19 or older who meet all of the following criteria:
 - client exhibits behaviours that puts themselves or others at significant risk of significant harm, and management strategies have failed to reduce risk;
 - all in-territory options for suitable placement have been exhausted; and
 - the client or their guardian or substitute decision-maker consents to the placement.
3. OOT placement is intended as a short-term intervention for stabilization and/or treatment, whenever possible.
3. When choosing a location for an OOT placement, DS will consider the following factors:
 - placement's ability to meet the client's identified care needs and treatment goals;
 - recommendations from professionals and supports involved with the client (such as physicians, allied health professionals, psychologists, probation officers and caregivers);
 - client, family, and guardian/substitute decision maker's wishes regarding location of placement;
 - availability of natural supports (for example, family, friends, culturally relevant organizations) in that location; and
 - other factors as appropriate to the client's situation.

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4. DS is committed to facilitating the client's connection with significant family members, consistent with the client's wishes and their care needs.
 - Connection includes regular phone, email, or internet-based contact.
 - DS shall also facilitate having significant family members travel to the OOT location to visit the client, or having the client travel to Yukon to visit with family, when the client is placed OOT for more than one year.
 - DS is responsible for the relevant costs related to travel, up to the designated limit.
5. DS will ensure that any clients placed OOT will have a visit from their assigned social worker (or designate) at least once per calendar year. This visit will occur at the OOT placement whenever possible.
6. DS is committed to repatriating clients to Yukon as soon as practicable.
7. DS will review options for repatriation once every calendar year, whenever the client's Level of Care changes, or whenever a local placement becomes available that could meet the client's needs.

Definitions

Adult Placement Review Committee: A Disability Services committee made up of manager, clinical supervisors, and residential coordinator which reviews placement requests from social workers for clients needing placement and makes recommendations for placement. Manager has final decision-making authority in the context of this committee.

Client: An individual with a disability who receives services from Disability Services.

Care facilities: As defined by the Care Consent Act, these are continuing care facilities operated by the Government of Yukon, residential facilities for adults with disabilities operated by or under a contract with the Government of Yukon, or residential facilities for adults with disabilities whose placement is approved by the Deputy Minister.

Caregiver: A person or persons who are the primary unpaid caretakers of the client and who reside in the same home as the client (client may split time between two parent caregivers). They may or may not have legal guardianship over the client.

Care provider: As defined by the Care Consent Act, a person given responsibility by the Minister or under the regulations for arranging the admission or person to receive health care, live in a care facility or receive personal assistance services. Per the Act, social workers are considered care providers and may determine whether an individual is incapable of giving consent to health care, placement, or personal assistance services.

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Legal guardian: A person appointed by Yukon's Supreme Court to make decisions on behalf of a person who has been found by a qualified assessor to be incapable of managing all or part of their affairs.


Placement: Refers to the process of Disability Services moving a client to a new supported living resource; may also refer to the resource itself which offers care, support and supervision to clients who have significant care needs; placements are staffed 24 hours per day.

Repatriation: The process by which a client returns to Yukon from an out-of-territory placement. Best practice includes significant transitional planning.

Substitute decision-maker: As defined by the Care Consent Act, a person chosen to give or refuse consent to care on behalf of an individual.

Authorities

- Care Consent Act (Yukon)
- Adult Protection and Decision Making Act (Yukon)
- Health Act (Yukon)
- Financial Administration Act (Yukon)

APPROVED BY:		Director, Social Supports
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