

## **POLICY: IMMINENT DANGER**

**POLICY STATEMENT:** It is the policy of the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities (BDDS) that BDDS and Bureau of Quality Improvement (BQIS) staff intervenes timely and appropriately in situations in which individuals receiving BDDS administered services are discovered in imminent danger.

### **DETAILED POLICY STATEMENT:**

BDDS shall maintain placement authority over all service settings while monitoring the performance of entities responsible for mitigating dangers to the health and welfare of affected individuals.

#### **Responsibilities upon Discovery**

Upon discovery that an Individual receiving services is in imminent danger, the person making the discovery shall ensure the following actions take place:

1. call 911 if indicated;
2. initiate safety actions for the Individual as is indicated and as is possible, including removing individual immediately if necessary;
3. contact the following and notify them of the situation:
  - a. the Individual's case manager (or the case management vendor's 24hr crisis line if the case manager is not immediately available) for individuals in waiver funded supported living settings;
  - b. the BDDS District Manager;
  - c. a manager with the responsible provider company;
  - d. Adult Protective Services, or Child Protective Services, as indicated; and
  - e. the Individual's legal representative, if applicable.
4. remain at the scene pending mitigation of the imminent danger situation.

#### **Responsibilities during Mitigation of Danger**

1. The entity responsible for coordinating development of a mitigation plan for the Individual found in imminent danger shall be:
  - a. the individual's case manager (or the case management vendor's crisis representative in the absence of the case manager) for individuals receiving waiver funded supported living services;
  - b. the BDDS District Manager for all other individuals receiving BDDS approved services.
2. The responsible entity described above shall:
  - a. collaborate with the individual's Individualized Support Team (IST) to develop a mitigation plan to eliminate the imminent danger situation;
  - b. ensure oversight of the mitigation plan;
  - c. document the imminent danger event and all responses to the event per current DDRS policies, procedures and directives.
3. The provider agency manager shall cooperate fully with the development and execution of the imminent danger mitigation plan.

### **Responsibilities Following Mitigation of Imminent Danger**

1. The provider responsible for the individual shall:
  - a. ensure follow-up measures to ensure the continued safety for the individual as indicated;
  - b. file a BDDS incident report per current DDRS policy; and
  - c. document the imminent danger event and all responses to the event per current DDRS policies, procedures and directives.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

“BDDS” means Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services as created under IC 12-11-1.1-1.

“BQIS” means Bureau of Quality Improvement Services as created under IC 12-12.5.

“Case Manager” means a person employed to provide Case Management services by DDRS or the DDRS approved Case Management vendor.

“Imminent danger” means an immediate danger which could reasonably be expected to cause death or serious physical harm.

“Individualized Support Team” or “IST” means

### **REFERENCES:**

IC 12-8-8-4

IC 12-9-2-3

IC 12-11-1.1-1

IC 12-10-3

IC 31-34

BDDS Incident Reporting Policy

Approved by: Julia Holloway, DDRS Director -

