

## Ingersoll Support Services Inc.

### Policy: Water Safety

Policy # QAM 36

Section: Quality Assurance

Approved by the Board of Directors: *May 24 2011*

Procedure Revision:

Ministry requirement –

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**QAM IV.25**

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*All people accessing support from Ingersoll Support Services who experience seizure activity or water safety issues will be assessed annually to determine the amount and type of support required during swimming/bathing, while respecting their right to privacy.*

### Procedure:

1. The person and/or family, friends, advocates, will make an informed decision about the amount and type of support required based on the following factors:

- Age of the person
- Type and intensity of seizure activity
- Frequency and pattern of seizure activity
- Presence of other conditions requiring close supervision
- Safety features available, such as; grab bars, non-slip rugs, pressure balanced taps, and temperature controlled water
- Current support being provided and additional support available
- The degree to which seizures have been controlled
- Persons understanding of the risks involved in their personal preference

2. The final determination of support must be documented, reviewed annually, or at any time the person's medical/health situation changes, or at the request of the person. This is to be noted in the Support Plan or Support Agreement documentation either directly or in an appendix. In situations where the individual chooses not to have staff present during showering/bathing it will be clearly identified in the individual's Support Plan and Support Agreement and be reviewed on a regular basis with the individual and/or their support network.

3. The currently documented status needs to be included as part of Orientation and duly documented for new staff persons and for new members to the Team.

4. Support is to be provided in the least intrusive manner possible to ensure both privacy and safety. It is important to maintain the dignity of each person in these circumstances. Support workers are advised to do so, utilizing towelings or standing by the door, keeping it somewhat ajar.

5. Staff will supervise identified individuals with active epilepsy at all times while engaged in activities of swimming and of bathing, as according to their Support Agreement. Staff may also provide instruction on the proper use of a hand held shower and instruct regarding the safety benefits of using a hand held shower in a free flowing tub as an alternative.

6. This procedure will be applied to any situation wherein personal safety is a concern regarding swimming, bathing and proximity to water.