



Assistive Devices Policy

Section: Corporate	Section Number:
Policy Title: Support Persons Policy	Policy Number:
Issue Date:	Approved By: Board of Directors
Review Date:	Approved By:-----

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to acknowledge that a person with a disability may utilize one or more assistive devices while accessing St. Paul's on- or off-site programs, services and facilities. An assistive device can be integral to ensuring that persons with disabilities have an equal opportunity to access our programs, services, and facilities.

Policy

A client/member of the public with a disability is permitted to utilize his/her personal assistive device(s) while accessing St. Paul's on- and off-site programs, services, and facilities. A person with a disability will not be prevented from having access to his/her personal assistive device(s) unless the health and safety of the individual or others is at risk.

St. Paul's will also provide access to various on- and off-site assistive devices for use by persons with disabilities when accessing our programs, services, and facilities. St. Paul's will provide verbal and/or written notice of non-availability of commonly-used assistive devices, and information regarding alternative devices, if available.

Definition

Assistive Device refers to a tool, technology, or other mechanism that helps a person with a disability complete everyday tasks and activities such as moving, communicating, or lifting. An assistive device can also help a person with a disability maintain their independence at home, at work, and in the community.

Personal Assistive Device refers to an assistive device that a person with a disability usually brings with him/herself. Examples of personal assistive devices include walkers, note-taking devices, hearing aids, personal oxygen tanks, etc.

Commonly-used Assistive Device refers to an on- or off-site device that is used routinely to provide access to St. Paul's programs, services, and facilities. Examples of common assistive devices include elevators, automatic doors, accessible transportation vehicles, etc.

Alternate Service Methods refers to the provision of alternative options for persons with disabilities to obtain, use, or benefit from programs, services, and facilities in a manner that

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takes into consideration their disability. Examples of alternate service methods include TTY (Telephone Teletype), documents in alternate formats such as large print or Braille, direct assistance from staff, etc.

Procedures

1. St. Paul's will encourage clients with disabilities to utilize their personal assistive devices, as well as any on- and off-site assistive devices offered by the organization.
2. St. Paul's will provide information to persons with disabilities regarding our assistive devices and alternate service methods upon request.
3. St. Paul's will recommend the use of assistive devices to persons with disabilities when appropriate, and offer referrals to external agencies for further information.

References

Accessibility Directorate of Ontario
Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities, 2005