



Support Persons 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 rely on a support person while accessing St. Paul's on- or off-site programs, services, and facilities. A support person 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 will be allowed to enter St. Paul's premises with his/her support person. The person with a disability will also be allowed to access on- or off-site services while accompanied by his/her support person. A person with a disability will not be prevented from having access to the support person while on St. Paul's premises and/or in receipt of St. Paul's service(s).

Definition

Support Person refers to an individual who accompanies a person with a disability to assist with communication, mobility, personal care, and/or medical needs. A support person may be a paid professional, a volunteer, a family member or friend of the person with a disability.

Premises refers to St. Paul's internal and external property that is open to the public and other third parties.

Procedures

1. St. Paul's will consult with a person with a disability to determine if he/she is required to be accompanied by a support person in order to ensure the health and safety of the person with a disability and other persons. St. Paul's will require that the person with a disability be accompanied by a support person if it is deemed necessary to meet the organization's health and safety obligations.
2. St. Paul's will determine if there is a fee charged for the programs, services, and/or facilities being accessed by the person with a disability, and if this fee is also required from the support person. If the fee is required, St. Paul's will provide advance notice to the person with a disability and/or the support person about the existence and amount of the fee.
3. St. Paul's will obtain the authorization of the person with a disability before discussing the individual's personal information in the presence of his/her support person.



Support Persons Policy

References

Accessibility Directorate of Ontario
Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities, 2005