

Weston Assisted Living

Elopement and
Wandering
Policy and
Procedure

POLICY

It is the policy of Weston Assisted Living Residence that, while continuing to foster the independence of all residents, will provide support for potential elopements of residents; and to ensure that a plan of action is in place to assist any resident with cognitive or memory issues who may wander from the facility.

PURPOSE

To co-ordinate a plan of action that will ensure a prompt, effective, and coordinated response when a resident is reported missing.

PROCEDURE

MISSING RESIDENT

Emergency Response Coordinator

Administrator, or in absence, Director of Wellness or designee will act as Emergency Response Coordinator for the relocation efforts to find a missing resident. Administrator will station themselves at the Concierge desk, with access to phone, email, fax, pagers, and 2-way radios.

A Log will be kept of all steps and outcomes.

Emergency Response Coordinator will notify the Chief Operating Officer and Facility Manager of the missing resident.

Initial Search Team Response

Step I

Designated staff will be designated as the search team. They will begin searching for resident in last known location of resident. These staff will be equipped with cell phones and /or two-way radios.

If needed, a resident photo and current medical/ mental status will be provided for review. Staff will report in via cell phone or 2-way radio every 20 minutes.

Security will be notified at gate house, located at entrance of complex.

Step II

The Search team will be assigned specific quadrants within the building, including closets, hallways, and all community spaces. Areas include:

- Resident's Room
- Floor Resident resides
- Common areas
- Kitchen
- Dining Rooms
- Bathrooms
- Hallway Closets
- Administrative/ Marketing areas
- Weston Assisted Living Residence
- Heller Independent Apartment building

In Tandem, other search teams will go to the outside areas to look for resident. Areas include:

- Outside patios
- Parking lot/ cars
- Trail around Lester Senior Housing
- Exterior Land that surrounds Lester Senior Housing
- Jewish Community Center and other buildings in area.

Step III

A profile of resident will be provided by the Wellness Center staff. Profile will include:

- Photo of Resident and /or Physical Description
- Description of Clothing worn
- Items Resident may have taken.
- Physical and Mental Capabilities
- Brief History: Previous elopements, favorite places to go
- Community Places that family members take Resident
- Any identification Resident may have taken with (wallet, purse)
- Use of Pendant, Wanderguard or GPS system (if any)

Copies of this information will be made and provided to appropriate personnel.

Step IV

Family Members, Power of Attorney, or Guardians, will be contacted and made aware of elopement.

Step V.

If resident is not found within 30 minutes of missing, status will be upgraded to Elopement Status

RESIDENT ELOPEMENT

Step I.

Coordinator will continue to assess and assign staff areas to search for resident. Search area will widen. Search team members will be assigned to travel in vehicles to search Highway East 10, the local shopping centers located east of Lester. Other search teams will travel west towards Jefferson Road.

Step II

Coordinator will re-notify Chief Operating Officer of the elopement of resident.

Step III

After review with COO, police will be notified. Profile and Photo ID will be provided to police.

Step IV

Weston Assisted Living Residence will work in tandem with Police/ and other emergency response team.

Step V

Chief Operating Officer may coordinate crisis communication with media.

Step VI

If resident is not found within 3 hours, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services will be notified via phone. Ombudsman will be contacted within 24 hours of incident.

Resolution of Missing Resident

1. When resident is found, resident will be evaluated by RN Manager for change of condition, injuries and mental status. RN will coordinate appropriate referrals for services for this resident.
2. Incident Report and Reportable Event form will be completed in writing within seventy two (72) hours of missing person reported to the Department of Health and Senior Services by Administrator.
3. Administrator will review incident with Chief Operating Officer within same day of incident. Incident will be reviewed by the Quality Assurance Team within five (5) working days of the incident.

4. Wellness team will assess for potential of additional interventions in a service plan, health care plan, additional aide support, or managed risk agreement, or possible discharge, based on safety needs. Plan will be reviewed and approved by Chief Operating Officer.

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