

Relationship and Sexuality Guidelines



Date effective: 3/2018
Revisions: 5/2018, 8/27/18, 10/5/2020
Review date: 10/10/22
HRC Review: 12/7/22

Applies to:

Policy number: 6.0.55

S:\Agency Policy\6 - Program Related Policies and Procedures\6.0.55 Relationship and Sexuality Guidelines.docx

- Communitas recognizes the rights of all people who are supported by our services. As an agency we understand that relationships of all kind are important for a meaningful life. For the adults that we support we understand that sexuality is an age appropriate topic for people to learn about through a variety of modalities.
- Communitas does not have a policy on sexuality rather a practice of supporting people on their journey to the life they want.
- Communitas provides staff training to support staff in feeling comfortable with discussing different kinds of relationship and sexuality issues. This training is introduced at agency orientation and will be followed by trainings in their programs.
- When individuals ask questions about these issues, they may be redirected to another time to discuss these topics. However, relationship and sexuality discussions will not be shut down to support the safety and ability to disclose abuse by all people supported.
- Communitas provides opportunities for people to build both the quality and quantity of relationships in their life.
- Communitas acknowledges that families are the experts on their family member that we support. We work with families to help support their family member. The individual we support is the captain of their support team. Communitas reserves the right to have conversations and educate people supported about relationship and sexuality issues as part of their journey through life.
- Communitas does not endorse or advertise a specific position on relationship and sexuality issues.
- Communitas helps provide information so that people can have a place to obtain accurate information about relationships and sexuality. This education is part of an agency-wide effort to decrease the rate of abuse sustained by people with disabilities and to support people in living the life they want.
- Communitas works to employ the shared language across all programs as stated below:

Public and Private

Public: Movie theater, Grocery Store, Living Room

Private: bedroom, bathroom at home

Types of Touch

Okay Touch: touch that feels good for both people or is helpful- never a secret

Sometimes Okay Touch: Touch that scares some people and not others, lasts a long time, is unexpected may or may not hurt

Never Okay Touch: Touch that hurts feelings, physically hurts your body, to be a secret

Flags

Green Flags: Positive things, qualities in friends you want

Red Flags: Negative things, qualities that you don't like