

Seclusion and Restraint Prohibition Policy (3.5)

Good Days Adolescent Special Needs Center, LLC – Fort Myers, FL

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all staff at Good Days Adolescent Special Needs Center maintain a safe, respectful, and non-restrictive environment for every student. The Center strictly prohibits the use of seclusion or physical restraint as behavioral management techniques, except when necessary to prevent imminent harm and only within the bounds of applicable law.

Section 1: Policy Statement

Good Days Adolescent Special Needs Center is committed to using only positive, evidence-based behavioral interventions. Under no circumstances shall seclusion or restraint be used as punishment, discipline, or convenience. All interventions must preserve the student's dignity, safety, and right to a supportive learning environment.

Section 2: Definitions

- **Seclusion** – The involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or area from which they are physically prevented from leaving. Seclusion is prohibited.
- **Restraint** – Any manual, physical, or mechanical restriction that immobilizes or reduces a student's ability to move their torso, arms, legs, or head freely. Physical restraint is prohibited except in emergency circumstances when a student's immediate safety or the safety of others is at risk.
- **Positive Behavior Support** – An approach focusing on prevention, skill development, and reinforcement of desired behaviors rather than punishment or exclusion.

Section 3: Emergency Situations

In rare, emergency situations where a student's actions pose an imminent danger to themselves or others, trained staff may employ minimal, temporary physical intervention to ensure safety. Such intervention must:

1. Be the least restrictive means necessary to prevent harm.
2. Be immediately discontinued once the danger has passed.
3. Be performed only by trained staff under direct supervision of the Director.
4. Be documented and reported as outlined in the Incident Report Form (E5).

Section 4: Prohibited Practices

The following practices are strictly prohibited at Good Days Adolescent Special Needs Center:

- Seclusion in any form.
- Physical restraint as a disciplinary measure.
- Mechanical or chemical restraint.

- Use of any intervention that restricts breathing or causes pain.
- Verbal intimidation, humiliation, or emotional coercion.

Section 5: Staff Training and Prevention

All staff members will receive training on de-escalation techniques, positive behavioral supports, and crisis prevention methods. Training will be led by the Director and updated annually to reinforce best practices and compliance with applicable Florida statutes and professional standards.

Section 6: Documentation and Reporting

Any instance involving a physical safety intervention must be documented immediately on an Incident Report Form and submitted to the Director within the same business day. Parents or guardians will be notified as soon as possible following the incident. The Director will review all reports and implement follow-up procedures, including staff debriefing and student support review.

Section 7: Monitoring and Compliance

The Director will regularly monitor compliance with this policy and ensure that all behavioral interventions are consistent with the Center's mission and ethical standards. Violations of this policy will result in corrective action up to and including termination of employment.

Section 8: Acknowledgment

All staff members must review and acknowledge their understanding of this Seclusion and Restraint Prohibition Policy during onboarding and annual policy review. Acknowledgment is documented through the Policy Acknowledgment Form (E1).

Approved: December 2025

Next Review: December 2026