

**Washington County**  
**Behavioral Health Division**

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**Policy on Individual Rights: Seclusion and Restraint**

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Policy Number: ADMIN 156  
Responsible Team: Quality Assurance  
Origination Date: 09/22/2015  
Next Review Date: 07/30/2027

Revision history: 06/13/2016, 03/20/2017, 02/05/2018, 06/11/2020, 07/27/2021,  
07/30/2024

Related Documents: Provider Oversight Policy, ADMIN 150 Individual Rights and Responsibilities Policy

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**OBJECTIVES**

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The purpose of this policy is to describe a client's rights to be free from seclusion and restraint and to identify the responsible and appropriate behaviors of Washington County Behavioral Health staff.

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**SCOPE/APPLIES TO**

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Washington County Behavioral Health (WCBH) staff, contracted staff, contracted providers, interns, and volunteers of Washington County.

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**POLICY**

**DEFINITION(S)**

**Certified:** Refers to having a Certificate of Approval issued by the Oregon Health Authority, Health Systems Division for outpatient behavioral health treatment.

**Client:** Individuals eligible for and accessing services from WCBH and/or its contracted provider.

**Contracted Provider:** An individual, facility, institution, corporate entity, or other organization contracted by WCBH to provide behavioral health treatment services.

**Individual rights:** As found in Oregon Administrative Rule 309-019-0115, individuals receiving services have statutory and constitutional rights and additional rights including the right to be free from seclusion and restraints.

**Restraint:** Any chemical or physical methods or devices that are intended to restrict or inhibit the movement, functioning, or behavior of an individual.

Review Frequency: **Triennial**

## Washington County Behavioral Health Division

**Seclusion:** Refers to placing an individual in a locked room. A locked room includes a room with any type of door locking device, such as a key lock, spring lock, bolt lock, or foot pressure lock. This may also include physically holding the door shut.

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

Washington County Behavioral Health (WCBH) holds a Certificate of Approval and adheres to the Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) on Individual Rights for clients enrolled in and receiving behavioral health services. Clients have statutory and constitutional rights including the rights to be treated with dignity and respect and to be free from seclusion and restraint.

The Oregon Health Authority, (OHA) Health Systems Division (HSD) certifies programs to appropriately use seclusion and restraints. WCBH does not have this certification, and therefore seclusion and/or restraint of an individual by staff is not allowed.

However, in any emergent situation, seclusion and/or restraints may be used as a last resort to protect the health and safety of a client (i.e., a client runs into traffic, and staff physically restrain the client to avoid danger). Staff will document the actions taken for the emergent situation on the behavioral health division incident report form.

### **Oversight**

Regular audits of client charts are conducted by the WCBH Quality Assurance staff to ensure adherence to this policy for behavioral health. Per contract, provider agencies must maintain policies prohibiting the use of seclusion and restraint as outlined in OAR 309-019-0110. WCBH provides oversight in accordance with the Provider Oversight Policy.