

POLICY AREA	Dementia License Policies
TITLE OF POLICY	3.13 ALDC Wandering and Elopement
STATUE/RULE REFERENCE (if any)	144G.82 Subd. 3 (3)
EFFECTIVE/REVISED DATE	08/01/2021

POLICY: As an Assisted Living with Dementia Care licensed facility, Heritage of Edina has systems in place to manage wandering, minimize opportunities for an elopement, and procedures in place to implement when a resident is missing or elopes.

PROCEDURE:

1. Systems in place to minimize opportunities for elopement include:
 - Pre-admission assessment
 - Risk assessment upon admission and as needed
 - Vulnerability interventions available for staff to use for behaviors
 - BHI interventions available for staff to use for behaviors
 - Secured building
 - Safety checks to be done every hour
 - Staff intervention via communication
 - Activities
 - Move to a smaller more secure area if necessary
 - Notifications to PMD for changes in behavior
 - Secured courtyard available to allow outdoors in safety
 - Code Alert to alarm if trying to exit
 - Code Alerts checked weekly for proper functioning
 - Keypad entries on stairwells
 - Caution tape applied over doors where a resident may more often seek elopement
 - A sign-in/-out system requiring responsible parties to sign residents in/out
 - ID bracelet
 - Intake available with resident photo and pertinent information

2. If a resident is thought to be missing the following procedure will be followed. Please remember, when a resident is missing, time is of the essence! These steps must be followed as quickly as possible:
 - The person that first notices a missing resident will alert all coworkers in their immediate work area to ask if they've seen or know where the resident may be.
 - They will check the resident sign-in/out book to see if the resident has left the facility.
 - They will then contact and inform the case manager or the highest ranking nursing personnel and will include as much information about the missing resident as possible including name, age, apartment number, area last seen, mental status, full physical description, mobility, clothing resident was wearing when last seen, etc.
 - If this occurs when the case manager or the day charge nurse isn't on-site, the nurse on duty will read the resident's chart looking for any service changes indicating the resident is already known to be off-site.

- All nearby available staff will search inside the building according to the case manager/ highest ranking nursing personnel's direction. Areas searched will include the building the resident resides in, all other buildings on the property, all public areas, all offices, stairwells, outside, courtyards, neighboring streets and other resident apartments.
- If the missing resident is still not located, the case manager/ highest ranking nursing personnel will call the family to ask if they had a resident on an outing and had forgotten to sign the resident out and or to inquire as to additional information family may have about the missing resident.
- If family does not have any information regarding the whereabouts of the resident, and the in-house/surrounding area search has not located the resident, the charge nurse/ highest ranking nursing personnel will contact the local police department. Caller will relay as much information as possible to the police department, including time and place resident was last seen, the description of the resident and a photograph if requested.
- Highest ranking on-duty nursing personnel will update family on steps taken to locate resident including the call to the police department.
- Search will continue until resident is found.
- After resident is found, Case manager or highest ranking personnel will notify all persons involved including family, police department, coworkers, i.e. home health aide/ charge nurses and must notify PMD.
- MAARC will be notified within 24 hours of the incident.
- Case manager will be contacted if not on-premises.
- Case manager will direct highest ranking personnel to modify and implement additional safety measures to the resident's existing care plan. These implemented safety measures will focus on minimizing possible future elopements and will include but not be limited to:
 - a. Move to safer environment
 - b. Increase in safety checks
 - c. Code Alert bracelet if not already being used
 - d. Any further measure PMD deems needed
- Highest ranking nursing personnel will complete an incident report including all information concerning disappearance:
 - a. Time of first alert concerning resident disappearance
 - b. Staff notified
 - c. Staff involved
 - d. Procedure followed
 - e. Physical exam
 - f. Time of notification of police department, MAARC and family, if applicable
 - g. Time found
 - h. Circumstances under which resident was found