




DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES

SERVICE INTEGRITY AND ENHANCEMENT

TO: DDDS Home and Community Based Services Providers

FROM: Katie Howe, DDDS Director of Program Integrity 

DATE: February 18, 2020

SUBJECT: Clarification re: Definition of "toxic chemicals" in DDDS Standards

As a result of questions from providers, DDDS is issuing clarification on the following section of its provider standard with regard to the requirement that **poisons, pesticides or other toxic chemicals shall be stored in locked cabinets/storage areas.**

- 1.18.7.1 Neighborhood Home (NH)
- 2.18.7.1 Community Living Arrangement (CLA)
- 5.11.10.1 Day Habilitation
- 6.11.10.1 Prevocational

The definition of toxic chemicals in the above referenced standards includes such items as weed killers/lawn care products, insect and pest control products, commercial grade chemicals/cleaning products. These products **MUST BE LOCKED** so that they are not accessible to the service recipients.

The standards above **do not** include personal hygiene products or routine household cleaning products such as the products listed below.

*Examples of personal hygiene products include but are not limited to: cologne, perfume, deodorant, lotion, hand soap, facial and body cleaners, shaving cream, toothpaste, mouthwash, shampoo.

*Examples of household cleaning products include but are not limited to: glass cleaner, all-purpose cleaner, carpet cleaner, air spray, laundry detergent, dish/dishwasher detergent, bleach, floor cleaner, multipurpose cleaner, disinfectant cleaner, dust/furniture polish.

Access to personal hygiene products or routine household cleaning products may, however, be restricted for specified service recipients in a **Behavioral Support Plan** (where applicable) or **Individual Plan of Protection (IPOP) [Version: DE2013.7]** or **Support Needs Document (SND)**. Moving forward, any such restriction must be documented in the service recipient's IPOP or SND under **Personal Safety** section in the subsection called "**Knowledge of safety precautions when using poisons and dangerous cleaning items**".

Moving forward, Program Evaluators will not issue citations for unlocked storage of personal hygiene and routine household cleaning products unless an individual's Behavioral Support Plan or IPOP/SND indicates they must be locked or otherwise restricted and the provider did not comply with this restriction.

Any BSP/IPOP/SND that limits access to personal hygiene products and routine household cleaning products in a way that affects other members of the setting must be addressed in accordance with any other rights restrictions that affect other service recipients.

When the DDDS Program Evaluators complete Quality Service Reviews, they will check the **Behavioral Support Plan** (where applicable) and **IPOP Version: DE2013.7** or **Support Needs Document** under **Personal Safety > Knowledge of safety precautions when using poisons and dangerous cleaning items** to ensure that any restrictions are addressed for the service recipient.

If you have any questions, please contact Laurie Smith at laurie.smith@delaware.gov

Thank you.