

NORTH BAY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NBRC Conservatorship Conflict Mitigation Policy

PURPOSE

It is the intent of North Bay Regional Center ensure the health and safety of all individuals served, but specifically those conserved by the Department of Developmental Disabilities. Delegated conservatorships are authorized by Health and Safety code 416.9 and occur when the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is appointed as conservator for an individual. The day-to-day duty and authority of the conservator is delegated to the appropriate regional center and this policy will outline how that duty will be carried out.

DEFINITION

Individuals may need the oversight and support to make decisions about their life and the services they receive from the regional center and other agencies. In certain situations, the IPP (Individual Program Plan) team might recommend that a conservator be appointed on their behalf. In the absence of family members or other appropriate entities to accept this role, DDS may be nominated and appointed by the court to act in this capacity, and may delegate this responsibility to the NBRC Executive Director (or his/her designee). NBRC acknowledges there must be balance between honoring a self-advocate's decision making and the support needed to make decisions that ensure the health and safety of the individual. In these circumstances, NBRC will ensure the least restrictive solution to address an individual's needs.

POLICY

To mitigate potential conflicts of interest for individuals served by North Bay Regional Center and conserved by DDS, NBRC will implement the following:

- Meet with the conservatee in person on a quarterly basis.
- Support the Individual Program Plan process and the conservatee's participation.
- Address all health and well-being issues in a timely manner, consulting the appropriate regional center staff and other professionals, as necessary.
- Timely address of any concerns, and/or dissatisfaction with services, and assist in raising concerns as needed, including alleged violations of rights.
- Provide the conservatee information about any questions or need for assistance from DDS or others so they understand alternatives to conservatorship.

- Complete monthly reviews of the individual’s health, safety and well-being by completing written updates to DDS with any changes to services or service needs.
- Maximize the conservatee’s autonomy and support the conservatee to make their own decisions to the best of their ability.
- Consider all support available to maximize ability and access to their local community.
- Provide input on the biennial comprehensive assessment of the individual, including a review of the need for conservatorship and ways to involve the individual in the review process and determining others they may want included.

Expected qualifications for the NBRC delegated conservator:

Bachelor’s degree in human services such as psychology, social work or other related fields and 5 years’ experience working with individuals with developmental disabilities.

Required training for the NBRC delegated conservator:

- Person Centered Thinking and planning.
- What it means to act as Limited Conservator.
- Supported Decision Making and other alternatives to conservatorships.
- Limited Conservatorship for individuals with IDD (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities).
- Client Rights.

Process for Requesting Assistance from the Department (DDS)

A conservatee or their legal representative who is dissatisfied with a regional center’s performance in carrying out its delegated conservatorship responsibilities may request assistance from the Department in resolving their concerns through:

The Department’s Ombudsperson at: Ombudsperson@dds.ca.gov or (877) 658-9731.

The Department’s conservatorship liaison office at: ddsconservatorship@dds.ca.gov or (833) 421-0061.



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