

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

**Policy No.: I.E.PO.001**

**Subject:** Minimum Standards for Water Safety

**Section:** Health and Safety

**Issue Date:** Upon Release

**Effective Date:** June 2003

**Revised:** September 1, 2008

**Revised:** June 15, 2009

**Approved:/S/ Peter H. O'Meara  
Commissioner**

**A. Policy Statement**

All DDS operated, funded, licensed or certified programs involved in aquatic activities and activities proximal to water shall adhere to the standards for water safety set forth in this policy and the water safety procedure. The procedure for water safety shall include:

- Requirements regarding safe staff to individual ratios for participation in aquatic activities
- Training requirements for public and private programs and community training homes
- Requirements regarding notification and documentation of aquatic incidents.

Each DDS region and training school shall designate an aquatic director who shall oversee the implementation of this policy and serve as a resource for safe implementation of aquatic programs and activities.

**B. Applicability**

This policy shall apply to all DDS operated, funded, licensed, or certified programs involved in aquatic activities.

This policy applies when individuals are supported by program staff or CTH providers and individuals who self-direct their supports..

This policy shall apply to all staff responsible for aquatic activities in the regions and Southbury Training School.

**C. Definitions**

1. Aquatic Activities: all water-related activities including swimming, boating, fishing, hot tubs, water parks and those activities proximal to water.
2. Aquatic Director: A DDS staff person designated by each region or training school to manage water safety programs.
3. Public Program: supports and services provided, operated, or qualified by the Department of Developmental Services. These can include, but are not limited to: State-operated residential and work settings, respite centers, day programs, leisure and recreational programs, individual and family supports and services, and camps.

4. Private Program: supports and services funded and/or licensed/qualified, in whole or in part, by the Department of Developmental Services and operated by the private sector. These can include, but are not limited to: residential and work settings including community training homes, day supports and services, respite centers, leisure and recreational programs, individual and family supports and services, and camps.

**References**

1. Connecticut General Statute Sec. 17a-238
2. Water Safety Procedure # I.PR.E.001