



KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

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There are many types of services available through Starbridge. As an individual partnering with Starbridge, there are several things we would like you to know. Some items, we are required by our funders to inform you about. Other information may just be good to know.

Some topics covered in this booklet are:

The Justice Center
Incident Reporting
Common Grounds Committee
Corporate Compliance
Internal Events

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This handout should be reviewed initially upon intake and annually thereafter.

The Justice Center

The Protection of People with Special Needs Act establishes the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs ("Justice Center") and requires that the Justice Center Code of Conduct be read and signed by anyone who will have regular and substantial contact with any person who is receiving Starbridge services.

All Starbridge staff are trained on and will implement the JC's Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct represents a framework that will help staff determine how to help people live self-directed, meaningful lives in their communities, free from abuse and neglect, and protected from harm.

Staff must abide by the following Code of Conduct provisions. If you feel your staff is not following the Code of Conduct provisions, contact your Program Director.

Code of Conduct Provisions:

1. Person-Centered Approach

The primary duty of staff is to the people who receive supports and services from Starbridge and each person of suitable age must have the opportunity to direct his or her own life, honoring, where appropriate, their right to assume risk in a safe manner, and recognizing each person's potential for lifelong learning and growth. Staff will require flexibility, creativity and commitment. Whenever appropriate, staff will work to support the individual's preferences and interests.

2. Physical, Emotional and Personal Well-being

Staff will promote the physical, emotional and personal well-being of any person who receives services and supports from Starbridge, including their protection from abuse and neglect and reducing their risk of harm. Staff will immediately report any situation in which any person receiving services or supports is experiencing, or is at risk of experiencing abuse or neglect.

3. Respect, Dignity and Choice

Staff will respect the dignity and individuality of any person who receives services and supports from Starbridge and honor their choices and preferences whenever possible and appropriate. Staff will help people receiving supports and services use the opportunities and resources available to all in the community, whenever possible and appropriate.

4. Self-Determination

Staff will help people receiving supports and services realize their rights and responsibilities, and, as appropriate, make informed decisions and understand their options related to their physical health and emotional well-being.

5. Relationships

Staff will help people who receive services and supports from Starbridge maintain or develop healthy relationships with family and friends. Staff will support them in making informed choices about safely expressing their sexuality and other preferences.

Starbridge Mission: Transforming communities to include everyone by partnering with people with disabilities, their families and those who support them.

Vision: Ensuring every person has the right to define and lead a fulfilling life.

How does this information affect you? With this information, we encourage you to expect and demand quality services!

6. Advocacy

Staff will advocate for justice, inclusion and community participation with, or on behalf of, any person who receives services and supports from Starbridge as appropriate. Staff will promote justice, fairness and equality, and respect their human, civil and legal rights.

7. Personal Health Information and Confidentiality

Staff understand that persons served by Starbridge have the right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to their personal health information and will protect this information from unauthorized use or disclosure, except as required or permitted by law.

8. Non-Discrimination

Staff will not discriminate against people receiving services and supports or colleagues based on race, religion, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, economic condition or disability.

9. Integrity, Responsibility and Professional Competency

Staff will reinforce the values of Starbridge when it does not compromise the wellbeing of any person who receives services and supports. Staff will maintain their skills and competency through continued learning, including all training provided by this organization. Staff will actively seek advice and guidance of others whenever uncertain about an appropriate course of action. Staff will not misrepresent professional qualifications or affiliations. Staff will demonstrate model behavior to all, including persons receiving services and supports.

10. Reporting Requirement

As mandated reporters, Staff acknowledge their legal obligation to report all allegations of reportable incidents immediately upon discovery to the Justice Center's Vulnerable Persons' Central Register by calling **1-855-373-2122**.

If you have concerns about your services, need support trying to get services, or need help understanding your rights, you can contact the Independent Ombuds Program (IDDO). This advocacy program is independent from OPWDD and is run by the Community Service Society of New York (CSSNY).

The helpline is free and confidential: 1-800-762-9290 (Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm).

Learn more at iddony.org.

These are **Incident Categories**:

Under the auspices of Starbridge:

Abuse and Neglect: Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Psychological Abuse, Deliberate Inappropriate Use of Restraints, Use of Aversive Conditioning, Obstruction of Reports of Reportable Incidents, Unlawful Use/Administration of Controlled Substance, Neglect

Significant Incidents: Conduct Between Individuals Receiving Services, Seclusion, Unauthorized use of Time-Out, Medication Error with Adverse Effect, Inappropriate Use of Restraints, Mistreatment, Injury with Hospital Admission, Theft & Financial Exploitation (over \$100), Unauthorized Absence/Missing Person, Choking, Self-Abusive Behavior with Injury, Other Significant Incident

Notable Occurrences: Injury, Death, Sensitive Situation, Theft and Financial Exploitation (between \$15 and \$100)

Not under the auspices of Starbridge:

Part 625: Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Active Neglect, Passive Neglect, Self-Neglect, Financial Exploitation and Death.

STARBRIDGE INCIDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Incident Review Committee (IRC) is to ensure that programs of Starbridge are provided in a manner that protects the safety and welfare of the individual while preserving their rights as adults and facilitating their movement toward greater self determination and independence. The IRC shall review and monitor reportable incidents, serious reportable incidents, and notable occurrences that occur to people receiving OPWDD services.

STARBRIDGE COMMON GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Starbridge is committed to safeguarding your rights to ensure a person-centered planning process that appropriately resolves conflicts, disagreements and conflicts of interest. The purpose of this committee is to provide support with conflicting issues, help with problem solving, and/or making connections. Your Program Director can assist you with obtaining a Common Grounds Referral Form if needed.

CORPORATE COMPLIANCE

Corporate Compliance Overview

Starbridge is committed to conducting business in a manner that promotes compliance with laws and regulations, continually monitors for compliance, and creates systems to be responsive to identified risk areas and changes in the regulatory environment.

Starbridge has a Compliance Plan and is dedicated to managing and operating all services with the highest of business, ethical, and moral principles. Our Board of Directors, Employees, Interns, Volunteers and Contractors contribute to achieving these principles by conducting business activities for the agency with integrity and high ethical standards.

We want to hear from you!

If you have any comments or suggestions on how to improve our Compliance Plan, please contact the Vice President of Corporate Compliance/Compliance Officer.

You can access copies of our standards, policies, and procedures by contacting the Vice President of Corporate Compliance/Compliance Officer.

Report any concerns or issues to the Vice President of Corporate Compliance/Compliance Officer.

How to contact the VP of Corporate Compliance/Compliance Officer:

Direct Phone: (585) 224-7242

Email: complianceofficer@starbridgeinc.org

Anonymous Phone Line:

*67 (585) 224-7202

No one who reports an issue or concern shall suffer any harassment, intimidation, or retaliation.

How does this information affect you? With this information, we encourage you to expect and demand quality services!

CORPORATE COMPLIANCE PLAN:

Education and Training Staff and others associated with Starbridge must be informed about regulatory requirements and agency policies and procedures, as they apply to each individual/entity.

Communication Staff and others associated with Starbridge have a responsibility to initiate good faith reports for any potential violations of the Agency's Standards of Conduct, Policies/Procedures, and Compliance Plan.

Performance Management to Encourage Good Faith Participation Staff and others associated with Starbridge are responsible for conducting him/herself according to the Standards of Conduct and legal and ethical standards. Starbridge implements policies and procedures to ensure that all affected individuals are aware of their responsibility to initiate good faith reporting for any potential compliance issues.

Internal Auditing Process The Vice President of Corporate Compliance and the Quality Improvement Director are responsible for ensuring that internal auditing takes place on a regular basis for the services provided by Starbridge.

Responding to Compliance Issues Starbridge is committed to a culture of compliance through detecting, correcting, and preventing non-compliance behavior.

Non-Intimidation and Non-Retaliation Starbridge recognizes that a critical aspect of its compliance program is the establishment of a culture that promotes prevention, detection, and resolution of instances of conduct that do not conform to federal and state requirements and payor requirements, as well as the organization's Standards of Conduct.

Conflict of Interest Staff and others associated with Starbridge have an obligation to conduct business within guidelines that prohibit actual or potential conflicts of interest, or those that may present the appearance of a conflict of interest. Starbridge will ensure that services and business activities are conducted in an objective manner and are not motivated by desire for personal or financial gain.

Gift Policy Gifts and Entertainment shall not be offered to referral sources or potential referral sources of Starbridge. In addition, Gifts and Entertainment shall not be accepted from individuals or entities that receive referrals of health care business from Starbridge. Any exception to this policy can only be made after consultation with Starbridge counsel.

Internal Events:

These are any event that may result in a possible negative effect upon an individual supported by Starbridge. Internal Events are used for the purpose of supporting and assisting individuals and tracking individual/staff behaviors/situations that are out of the ordinary. They are also used as a communication device to highlight unusual events that occur within the residence or services.

These are Internal Event Categories FOR ALL SERVICES**UNUSUAL INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR**

All Services: Any behavior that is unusual for the individual and the individual's actions that may potentially put themselves or others at risk of injury, harm, loss of housing, loss of services, etc.

Certified Sites: Any behavior that is not addressed within a Support Plan (i.e.: upset behavior, self-injurious behavior, any use of an object as a weapon, stealing, any unusually long or intense behavior that IS addressed in a Support Plan).

EMERGENCY ROOM VISIT/URGENT CARE FACILITY

All Services: Whenever someone is examined in a hospital emergency room / urgent care due to medical reasons and / or injury. Your guardian / parent / family member will be notified (unless the individual objects to such notification).

MENTAL HEALTH ARREST

All Services: Whenever law enforcement requires an individual that receives services to be immediately evaluated for Mental Health issues. Your guardian / parent / family member will be notified (unless the individual objects to such notification).

INJURY CAUSE UNKNOWN

All Services: Any significant injury in which the person cannot describe how the injury occurred.

Certified Sites: Any injury in which the person cannot describe how the injury occurred. RN will be notified.

POSSIBLE THEFT

All Services: Any possible theft of Starbridge monies or property. Any possible theft and/or financial exploitation against a person that receives services. Any suspected theft or financial exploitation that is less than \$15.00 in value, that does not involve a debit, credit, or benefit card. (Any theft and/or financial exploitation over \$15.00 in value or involves a debit, credit, or benefit card shall be filed as an incident.)

PROPERTY DAMAGE

All Services: Any damage to Starbridge property.

Certified Sites: Any damage to Starbridge's or a Starbridge certified site resident's property.

VEHICLE ACCIDENT

All Services: Any accident involving a Starbridge vehicle. Any van/car/bus accident that involves an individual supported by Starbridge and/or in which there is a significant injury.

Certified Sites: Any van/car/bus accident that involves an individual supported by Starbridge residential services.

COMPLAINT

All Services: Any complaint by an individual, family member, neighbor, other service provider, someone in the community, etc., towards a person that is supported by Starbridge or about an employee of Starbridge. This may also include any inappropriate behavior that is witnessed by, or involves, the general public.

EMPLOYEE ISSUE

All Services: Any situation involving an employee performance issue (only when directed by the Program Director/VP Corporate Compliance/Chief Program Officer/President/CEO).

REGULATORY OVERSIGHT OF ANOTHER STATE AGENCY

All Services: Any event or situation that occurs in a facility or service setting subject to the regulatory oversight of another State Agency (e.g. school, hospital, article 28 clinic, physician's office) and the event or situation meets the definitions of a Reportable Incident / Notable Occurrence. (Notification must be made to management of that facility or service setting.)

OTHER

All Services: Any situation involving an individual supported by Starbridge that is not described in any other definition but is deemed to be significant for that person and/or Starbridge. The situation may be of a delicate nature to Starbridge and should be reported to ensure awareness of the circumstances, review of monitoring, preventative measures, and follow up was completed as appropriate.

If you have concerns about your services, need support trying to get services, or need help understanding your rights, you can contact the Independent Ombuds Program (IDDO). This advocacy program is independent from OPWDD and run by the Community service Society of New York (CSSNY). The helpline is free and confidential: 1-800-762-9290 (Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm) Learn more at iddony.org.

These are Internal Event Categories FOR SUPERVISED IRA'S ONLY**AGGRESSION TOWARDS ANOTHER**

Physical and/or verbal aggression by an individual supported by Starbridge.

INDIVIDUAL TARGETED BY ANOTHER PERSON THAT RECEIVES SERVICES

Any occurrence when one individual is targeted by another individual that involves physical assault. Staff should always check for injuries and document the results on the Internal Event.

EMERGENCY USE OF SCIP-R (Strategic Crisis Intervention and Prevention-Revised)

Any use of a SCIP-R personal intervention that is implemented to prevent the individual from injuring themselves or others and is not outlined in an approved Support Plan.

ANY USE OF SCIP-R RESTRICTIVE PERSONAL INTERVENTIONS

Any use of SCIP-R restrictive personal intervention that is implemented to prevent the individual from injuring themselves or others that is outlined in a Support Plan OR in an emergency situation.

MINOR INJURY

Any significant injury (i.e. cut, burn, bruise larger than a quarter, etc.) in which the cause is known, that requires first aid. Staff must document in the Medical Progress Notes. RN notification required.

DAY ACTIVITY/WORK ATTENDANCE

Whenever an individual has missed more than five consecutive days of their day activity/work due to medical or other reasons. (This does NOT include vacations.). Guardian/parent/family member will be notified (unless the individual objects to notification).

MAINTENANCE SAFETY ISSUE

Any environmental/physical plant safety features that are not in working condition. A safety plan should be implemented and documented in the Internal Event form until the safety feature is repaired and deemed to be working properly (i.e.: fire door not latching properly, fire alarm system malfunctioning, high water temperature, etc.)

STAFF ERROR WITH INDIVIDUAL'S FINANCES

Any staff error discovered concerning Starbridge's oversight and monitoring of an individual's finances. (i.e.: amount discrepancy on PIA ledger, giving an individual more money than their established handling limit, PIA check late, etc.)

INDIVIDUAL ERROR WITH FINANCES

Any situation discovered involving discrepancies with the individual and how they are handling their finances (i.e.: obtained money that was over their handling limit, purchase of item that is well above their budget, etc.)

EMERGENCY EVACUATION

Any evacuation of the certified site that was not a planned drill (i.e.: cooking caused the alarm to sound, smoke detector activated, gas leak, etc.)

FAILURE TO EVACUATE

Any occurrence when an individual supported by Starbridge is unable/not willing to evacuate from the certified site during the required time frame. This includes planned drills and unplanned activation of the fire alarm system. Retesting of the individual's ability to evacuate in an appropriate time frame should be documented on the Internal Event form. Retesting should occur within 24 hours and reflect the same conditions as the failed evacuation.

MEDICATION ISSUE

Any situation involving a medication that is NOT a med error (i.e.: found medication, unaccounted for controlled substance, missing med keys, medications not secured properly, etc.)

Anyone supported by Starbridge can access and review copies of our standards, policies, and/or procedures by contacting the Vice President of Corporate Compliance/Compliance Officer:

Direct Phone: (585) 224-7242

Email: complianceofficer@starbridgeinc.org



Acknowledgement Form for Incident Management and Corporate Compliance

I acknowledge that I have had the Knowledge is Power newsletter reviewed with me by Starbridge staff. This review included:

- Overview of Starbridge's Compliance Plan
- Overview of OPWDD (The Office for People with Developmental Disabilities) definitions of Reportable Incidents, Notable Occurrences, Part 625 Events, and Starbridge's Internal Events Definitions. I have been provided training to protect myself from abuse and other events that are reportable incidents.
- I am aware that I can review Starbridge Policies and Procedures for Incident Management, 624 Regulations, and written information developed by OPWDD in collaboration with the Justice Center by visiting Starbridge's website at www.starbridgeinc.org.
- I am aware that if I want to receive a hard copy of Starbridge's Policies and Procedures for Incident Management, 624 Regulations, and/or written information developed by OPWDD in collaboration with the Justice Center, I will notify the Vice President of Corporate Compliance/Compliance Officer.
- I am aware that I can report any compliance issue or concern (including making a confidential report by calling Starbridge's Compliance Hotline). I will not be intimidated or retaliated against for making a report. I can report recommendations, questions, issues, or concerns directly to the Vice President of Corporate Compliance/Compliance Officer.

Anonymous Compliance Hotline - *67 (585) 224-7202

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Email: complianceofficer@starbridgeinc.org

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Starbridge Staff Signature: _____

Date: _____



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