



National Participant Network (NPN)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES REGARDING PUNITIVE ACTION RELATED TO INITIAL AND CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY IN A PARTICIPANT-DIRECTED PROGRAM

- ◆ The NPN believes that anyone can be a part of a participant-directed program, given enough support to express his/her own needs and wants.
- ◆ The NPN believes that prior to any punitive actions, a thorough examination of the root cause of the problem must take place to identify accidental misunderstandings or issues related to the disability itself. Once the issues are identified, the NPN believes that need to be established to mitigate similar repeat errors.
- ◆ The NPN believes that prior to any punitive response toward disallowed actions carried out by a participant, a team comprised primarily of participants must be consulted to determine that all supportive responses to the problems have been exhausted.
- ◆ The NPN believes that when a disallowed action or pattern of actions is discovered, the needs to be examined carefully to determine if the participant or another party, such as paid or natural support, is generating the incorrect action. The punitive action needs to be directed at the individual responsible and not participant if the latter is not at fault.
- ◆ NPN believes that prior to punitive action, program administrators are required to examine their training materials and instructional forms to see that they have clarity and are understandable, therefore not inadvertently leading participants to commit actions due to confusion and poor direction.
- ◆ The NPN believes that program administrators should perform an in-depth analysis of any state actions which may be contributing to disallowed activities on the part of participants. Program Administrators need to be prepared to modify procedures to future incorrect actions by the participants.

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- ◆ The NPN believes that prior to removing a participant from a program the administrators need to provide a level of intervention that includes offering a trained representative who can focus on problem solving, can provide additional support in areas of difficulty and can ensure that the areas of violation are successfully addressed.
- ◆ The NPN believes that the participant needs to be part of all discussions related to program administrator concerns for disallowed actions and to assist in producing solutions to any problems.
- ◆ The NPN believes that the blanket label of disability does not entitle the individual to special treatment related to the rules of punitive action. If violations are not specifically related to or caused by the individual's identified disability, he/she should be treated the same as others without disabilities in that case. By choosing to be part of a participant-directed program, a participant accepts responsibility for his/her actions.