



# GUIDELINES CONCERNING SEXUAL HEALTH, PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS, AND SEXUALITY

PA Office of Department of Human Services  
Developmental Programs Bulletin  
April 13, 2018

Risk  
Management



Deputy  
Secretary's  
Office



Guidelines  
Concerning  
Sexual Health,  
Personal  
Relationships,  
and Sexuality

# Statewide Sexuality Committee

- A cross-system, cross-discipline, statewide committee made up of individuals representing:
  - *Provider agencies*
  - *Family members*
  - *ODP Regional and Statewide professionals*
  - *Self-advocates*
  - *HCQUs*
  - *ODP's medical director*
  - *Self-advocate organizations*
  - *Independent clinical professionals*

# Next Steps

- Personal reflection – implicit biases
- Build knowledge base
- Recognize people with disabilities as sexual beings
- Recognize social/sexual nuances
- Recognize the slippery slope from healthy sexuality to offending behaviors
- Build capacity at all levels to support individuals with disabilities and their desire for consensual relationships
- What would you suggest?

# Sexuality Definition

Sexuality at its core is a natural and integral part of who we are. It begins at birth and extends over our life span. It influences how we feel about ourselves and our relationships.

# The Objectives of the Guidelines are to...

1. Promote an environment where individuals with disabilities have the right to pursue personal relationships and their sexuality and experience a life that is no different than that of individuals without disabilities, without being neglected, exploited, or abused.

# The Objectives of the Guidelines are to...

2. Ensure that individuals with disabilities have the same opportunity to receive accurate sexual health and relationship information as individuals without disabilities.

# The Objectives of the Guidelines are to...

3. Establish an expectation that provider agencies develop or review their policies on sexual health, personal relationships, and sexuality. The policies should support the concept of Everyday Lives values as they apply to sexual health, personal relationships, and sexuality.