



MENTAL RETARDATION BULLETIN

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

DATE OF ISSUE
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NUMBER
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SUBJECT:

**Guidelines Concerning
Sexuality**

BY:

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SCOPE:

County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Administrators
Community Home Directors
Family Living Home Directors
Adult Training Facility Directors
Vocational Facility Directors
Early Intervention Program Directors
Non-State Operated Intermediate Care Facilities
for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR) Directors
State-Operated Intermediate Care Facilities
for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR) Directors

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Bulletin is to distribute the "Guidelines Concerning Sexuality".

BACKGROUND:

In 1993, the Office of Mental Retardation established a subcommittee to study and provide advice on education, training and policy development on human sexuality and people with mental retardation. The subcommittee is composed of people with disabilities, parents, professionals, educators, therapists and advocates. The subcommittee has developed "Guidelines Concerning Sexuality: as first step toward helping men, women, and children and those who support them address this important aspect of life.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Any Member of the Sexuality Subcommittee of the OMR Planning Advisory
Committee

The Guidelines must be enhanced by education and support at the local level. The subcommittee members have organized regional committees. They continue to plan statewide training events, and they will make themselves available to assist people in understanding the guidelines. A list of subcommittee members is attached.

Sexuality is an important aspect of personal health, safety and expression. These guidelines provide a framework to help agencies develop policies that support the rights of people with disabilities; to assist self advocates in obtaining information and education and considering personal responsibility, as well as serving as a reference for families on rights and protections.

Attachments