

<b>River Valley Therapeutic Residence Policy and Procedure</b>		
<b>Resident Electronics</b>		
Effective: 2/6/2024	Revised: 9/5/2024	Due to Review: 9/5/2026

**POLICY**

River Valley Therapeutic Residence (RVTR) seeks to balance the benefits to independence, recovery, and community reintegration of personal electronic devices for the residents while ensuring a therapeutic environment and protecting the privacy of all residents within the facility. With the approval of the RVTR treatment team, residents have the option to have personal electronic devices (*i.e.*, laptops, cell/smart phones, tablets, etc.).

**PROCEDURE**

Upon admission, a resident’s electronic devices will be held by the facility until the resident has had an opportunity to acclimate to a new program and begin to develop initial treatment goals. After the holding period the resident will meet with the treatment team to evaluate their privileges and discuss access and use of personal electronic devices.

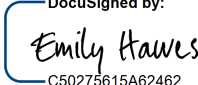
Upon treatment team approval, RVTR residents will be limited to two personal electronic devices that can access the facilities WIFI network, in addition to other non-internet connected devices, and will sign the *RVTR Internet Use Agreement*. In the case that a resident does not have access to a personal electronic device that can access the internet they may, with treatment team approval, have access to the RVTR computer or tablet for limited use.

Any personal electronic device, or RVTR laptop/tablet, that has the capability to record images or sound *i.e.*, photos, videos, audio, and any device that is capable of making or receiving, or participating in phone calls and or video conferencing shall remain in the resident’s room or used in designated facility areas (Consult room, Flex room, Sensory room, computer station in Multi-purpose room) with staff approval. This includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, laptops, tablets and ear buds with voice/video capabilities. Electronic watches that connect to cell phones are permitted in the facility common areas.

Residents are asked to be mindful and courteous of other residents and the overall environment of the facility milieu regarding loud music and other entertainment mediums *i.e.*, videos, video games etc. Residents are asked to refrain from any audio or video content in the facility that may be deemed counter therapeutic, such as sexual, violent, drug related, discriminatory content.

RVTR reserves the right to restrict the resident’s right to the access of personal electronic devices, or the RVTR laptop/tablet at any time if the use of such devices results in a distraction from or reduction in treatment/facility programming or is disruptive to the general facility milieu or otherwise deemed counter therapeutic to the individual’s recovery.

Individualized treatment plans regarding the use of electronic devices may be developed to help address or support issues associated with the use of technology or the internet.

Approved by	Signature	Date
Emily Hawes, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Mental Health	 <p>DocuSigned by: <i>Emily Hawes</i> C50275615A62462...</p>	9/5/2024