

River Valley Therapeutic Residence Policy and Procedure		
Transportation and Community Visits		
Effective: 5/23/2023	Revised:	Due to Review: 5/23/2025

POLICY

The River Valley Therapeutic Residence (RVTR) has a duty to protect the rights and safety of persons who are admitted to RVTR. These rights include, but are not limited to, access to the least restrictive modes of transportation to community providers or community visits and events that support skill building and resident goals, to the extent that health or safety considerations do not make it necessary to place limitations on the aforementioned.

PROCEDURE

General:

- Each resident shall be assessed by their RVTR treatment team, with ultimate decision making by the treating psychiatrist, to determine their Tier Level (see section below) based on their level of stability and ability to maintain safety while in the community.
 - If the transport or community visit is time sensitive and the provider is unable to write an order immediately, verbal/email permission is acceptable, with a written order to follow when able to provide this documentation.
- If the ordering provider determines transportation/escort by law enforcement personnel is needed, the rationale for such determination shall be documented in the medical record.

Transport:

The Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health delegates authority to authorize modes of transportation and escort to RVTR providers.

RVTR has established the following two standard modes of transportation to help guide clinical decision making in this regard:

1. A State of Vermont vehicle with a minimum of two trained RVTR personnel for individual outings (as the least restrictive mode of transportation).
 - a. On rare occasions, there may be an exception to this rule. Exceptions must be approved by the RVTR Psychiatrist.
2. Law Enforcement/Emergency Medical transport (this is the most restrictive mode of transportation).
 - a. When law enforcement/emergency medical transport personnel provide transportation, custody of the hospitalized person is transferred from RVTR personnel to law enforcement personnel for the duration of the transport.

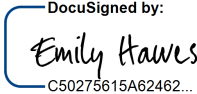
Note: A written provider's order may further specify transportation requirements.

Community Outings:

Residents of RVTR are encouraged to engage in community outings regularly as this aligns with the program's primary objective of community reintegration. RVTR personnel will attempt to support community visits whenever possible.

The following Tier levels will determine the Staff to Resident ratio for each resident:

- Tier I
 - Resident is not approved for community outings.
- Tier II
 - Resident requires 2:1 ratio (staff: resident ratio) and can only go on individual outings.
- Tier III:
 - Resident requires 2:1 ratio when going on individual outings and 1:1 ratio during group outings.
- Tier IV:
 - Resident requires 2:1 ratio when going on individual outings (rare exceptions can be made with approval from Psychiatrist for 1:1) and resident is able to engage in group community outings with a 2:5 staff: resident ratio.
 - If only 2 residents attend an outing, 2 staff are required to facilitate the outing.

Approved by	Signature	Date
Emily Hawes Commissioner Vermont Department of Mental Health	 <p>DocuSigned by: <i>Emily Hawes</i> C50275615A62462...</p>	5/23/2023