PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT POLICY

Policy number:	**4.0.0**	**Approved by Management Committee:**	24th November 2020
Version:	**3.0**	**Signed off by Executive:**	24th November 2020
Responsible person:	**Coordinator**	**Scheduled Review Date:**	24th November 2023

Purpose

Capricorn Citizen Advocacy is committed to the rights of all people with disabilities served in the program. Our organisation supports and endorses *Article 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) (2006).*

We affirm Article 1 which states that the purpose of the Convention is to *"... promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity."*

Policy

Capricorn Citizen Advocacy emphasises that pursuant to the UNCRPD, the rights and freedoms of people with disabilities are no different to any other members of the community. In particular, staff and the Management Committee are focussed on ensuring the following priorities are implemented;

a) Advocates are to be made aware of and supported, to pursue the primary physical and emotional needs of people with disability and those involved in the program.

b) Advocates are to be made aware of and supported to pursue the spiritual and cultural needs of people with disability, and those involved in the program.

c) The program will assist protégés and their significant others to celebrate cultural and religious rites and rites of passage in a socially appropriate manner.

What we will Always Strive to Do

a) Capricorn Citizen Advocacy is committed to ensuring the legal, civil and human rights of people with disability involved in the program are upheld.
b) Capricorn Citizen Advocacy affirms that advocacy has an important role in safeguarding people with disability against abuse and neglect.
c) Our program identifies a citizen advocate to promote, protect and defend the welfare, legal and human rights and freedom of a person with an intellectual disability.
d) Capricorn Citizen Advocacy has procedures in place which safeguard people with a disability. A police check is carried out on any person matched in an advocacy relationship.
e) Our program conducts community education using promotional talks about the need for advocacy because of the potential for abuse of persons with a disability.
f) Abuse and/or harassment of a person/people with disability will not be tolerated. Staff, volunteers or committee members who engage in such activity are liable to dismissal from employment.
g) Our program will endeavour to ensure that all involved with our organisation possess a full understanding of the legal and civil rights of people with disability.
h) Capricorn Citizen Advocacy will seek potential staff, volunteers and committee members who are committed to defending the legal and human rights of people with disability.
i) Our program will provide adequate training for staff/volunteers/advocates in reporting and supporting individuals in relation to abuse and neglect.

Related Documents

1. *Policy 1.0.0 Vision, Mission and Principles*
2. *Policy 1.1.5 Code of Conduct – Committee of Management Policy*
3. *Policy 6.0.0 Code of Conduct – Staff and Volunteers Policy*

References

1. *Citizen Advocacy Program Evaluation (CAPE) Reviews*
2. *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (December 2006).*

Ratification

This policy was adopted by Capricorn Citizen Advocacy's Management Committee at its meeting held on 24 / 11 / 2020.

SIGNED: ..... **President**

24 / 11 / 2020 **(Date)**

SIGNED: S Rowe ..... **Secretary**

24 / 11 / 2020 **(Date)**