



## Procedures for the use of Surveillance Equipment

**Project Independence reserves the right to approve or disapprove the use of surveillance equipment (video and/or audio) anywhere on Project Independence properties including inside a resident's unit and outside in their courtyard.**

In establishing guidelines, Project Independence has taken into consideration the following:

- Project Independence is bound by the Human Rights Act 1998, that seeks to protect the “private life” and privacy of individuals. The use of surveillance equipment is likely to pose a challenge to those rights and therefore agreement to install such equipment will only be considered based on a reasoned justification.
- Standard One (Rights) of the National Standards of Disability Services (2013) also emphasises the fundamental right of people with a disability to respect, dignity and privacy.
- People are more likely to exercise their independence and autonomy as they desire and to take risks in their lives. People with disability should have the same rights afforded to them as people without disability and anything that impacts on those rights must be carefully considered.
- It has not been established that there are significant safety benefits in the use of surveillance for people with disabilities. Evidence on the use of GPS trackers for people with autism and other developmental disabilities concluded that the benefit was more in the way of carer wellbeing than safety benefits.
- If surveillance is to be used in aid of regulated restrictive practice, Policy requirements for authorisation of regulated restrictive practices will apply. There must be a functional behaviour assessment and behaviour support planning and consideration of alternate ways to meet the person's needs, thereby reducing or eliminating the need for surveillance.
- Findings from the Disability Royal Commission (Issues Paper Restrictive Practices Date 28 August 2020) must be considered, specifically:
  - Surveillance is not a restrictive practice unless it restricts a person from having free access to all parts of their environment including items and activity.
  - Cameras should be positioned for reasonable and legitimate purpose with adequate signage that states a security camera is in operation.
  - Must not interfere with a residents use and enjoyment of their property.
  - May not infringe on the right to privacy of other residents, staff and visitors.



### **Installation of Surveillance Equipment inside a Resident's Unit**

- As Project Independence seeks to encourage independent decision-making, the resident will be required to consent to the installation of a video camera/ audio equipment if the request is made by a family member or carer.
- A formal request by the resident or family/carer is required via the PI Application for Modification to Resident's Unit form. The Board must approve this request before the installation of surveillance equipment.
- The wellbeing of the resident's family alone is not considered justification for having surveillance equipment installed.
- Surveillance equipment cannot be hidden in a room and the location must be agreed between PI and the resident. Private spaces such as toilets, shower/bathing or bedroom area are not considered suitable for the placement of video/audio equipment.
- Full disclosure to all PI employees on the presence of surveillance equipment within a unit will be a condition of permission being granted.
- PI reserve the right to periodically, with permission from the resident, enter the property to check the placement of surveillance equipment.
- There must be signage advising of the presence of a security camera within the unit so that those entering the applicant's unit (upon invitation) are aware their actions and words may be being recorded.
- The approval for installation of surveillance equipment will only be for a fixed period of time after which PI will review the situation to ensure the purpose for which it was installed remains valid.
- Project Independence reserves the right to insist that surveillance equipment is removed if it is found that information that is of a personal nature is misused, modified or inappropriately disclosed.

### **Installation of Surveillance Equipment in a Resident's Courtyard**

- As Project Independence seeks to encourage independent decision-making, the resident will be required to consent to the installation of a video camera/ audio equipment if the request is made by a family member or carer.
- A formal request by the resident or family/carer is required via the PI Application for Modification to Resident's Unit form. The Board must approve this request before the installation of surveillance equipment.
- The wellbeing of the resident's family is not alone considered justification for having surveillance equipment installed.



- Placement of any security camera within a resident's courtyard must only capture vision of the applicant's property and cannot encroach on the right to privacy of other residents by capturing vision of their properties or PI walkways and common areas.
- PI reserve the right to periodically, with permission from the resident, enter the property to check the placement of surveillance equipment.
- Signage advising of the presence of a security camera must be placed on the outside of the courtyard gate. This is so that those entering the applicant's property (upon invitation) are aware their actions and words may be being recorded.
- The approval for installation of surveillance equipment will only be for a fixed period of time after which PI will review the situation to ensure the purpose for which it was installed remains valid.
- Project Independence reserves the right to insist that surveillance equipment is removed if it is found that information that is of a personal nature is misused, modified or inappropriately disclosed.

#### Related Documents

- [Privacy Policy](#)