



SWI number:	SWI-OCC-014-2013
Version:	2.0
Date of version:	21 February 2020
Applies to:	Accommodation Services staff
Issued by:	Accommodation Services
Delegated authority:	Joe Young Executive Director Disability Services
Resource custodian:	Clarissa Bourne Manager Practice and Quality
Due for review:	February 2023
Confidentiality:	Public
DHS strategic objective:	Provide the best services

Accommodation Services

Safe Work Instruction

Assisting a Person to Walk

Stop, Think, Assess, Review

Stop before you begin, you **must review** the Support Plan of the client being assisted.

Think about the task, any equipment needed and the readiness of the client. Think about other options if this task cannot be done safely.

Assess the client by watching/talking to them to see if they are willing and able to participate in the task.

Review other options available if client not ready for task. Talk to supervisor/manager about other options.

Potential Hazards

1. Client injury from falling, due to: tripping, walking too fast, unsteady gait.
2. Muscular, soft-tissue or skeletal injury to workers due to being pulled by falling client.
3. Muscular, soft-tissue or skeletal injury to workers due to trying to stop client falling.

Safety Provisions


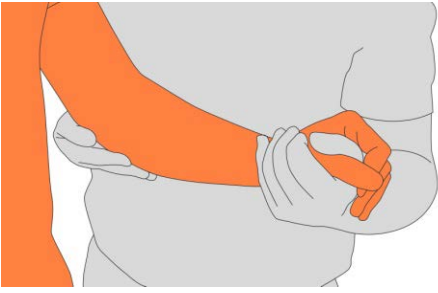
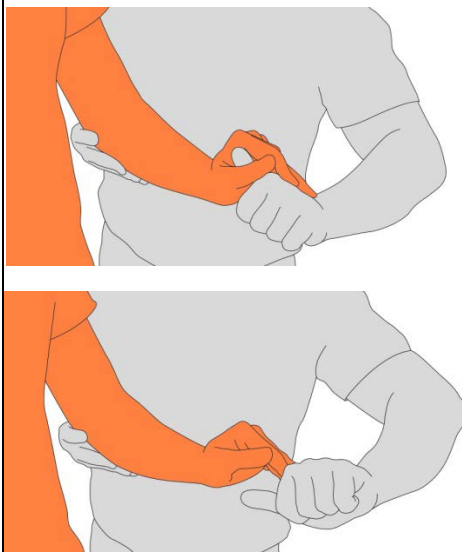
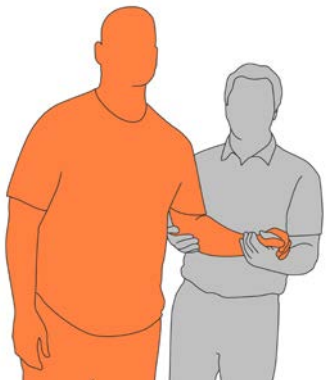
To prevent risk of injury to workers or clients during this manual task:

- a. Follow **all** steps of this Safe Work Instruction (SWI).
- b. Attempting to stop a falling client can increase the risk of injury to both the client and the worker. Resist any attempt to stop a client falling over by grabbing or catching them.
- c. Ensure client is wearing appropriate footwear for walking.
- d. Check that surface to be walked on is flat and even, remove tripping hazards and avoid inclines if possible.
- e. Check there is enough space for worker to walk beside client while assisting.
- f. Communicate with client and other workers at every step of this task.

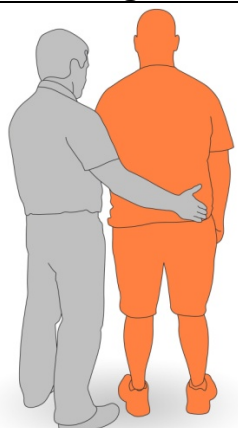
Instruction

Set Up

1. Refer to client's Support Plan for specific information.

Operation		
Step	Worker Action	Diagram
1. Worker to get into position beside client.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worker is standing beside client. 	
2. Position hands to support client while walking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worker is standing beside client. To support the client, hold their arm the following way: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worker to place hand closest to client underneath the client's elbow for support. Worker to place hand furthest from client into the client's palm for support, with the thumb through for the client to grip (not fingers or whole hand). 	
3. "Rolling Out" procedure (if required).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use "rolling out" procedure for escaping a thumb grasp by client, if required. Little finger leads hand in a rolling out movement that levers out workers thumb without risk of injury from pulling. This action is necessary for worker to avoid being pulled to ground if client falls, or if squeezes hand too tight. 	
4. Walk along with client.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worker to take slow, steady steps with client. Do not link or grab arms for safety. Worker to provide minimum support required to maximise client independence. (refer to client's support plan) Avoid inclines if possible. 	

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Operation		
Step	Worker Action	Diagram
5. Stopping walking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once at destination, or for a rest, stop walking. Worker to place one hand at back of client's hip to support them standing. Place other hand against client's shoulder for more support. If required, assist client to sit down (refer to Stand Transfer SWI). 	
Conclusion		
1. Safely conclude task.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure client is safe. If client is unable to walk independently, ensure they are seated. Document any incident and report to supervisor immediately. 	

Approval

Content Author:	Resource Custodian:	Delegated Authority:
Date: February 2020	Date: February 2020	Date: February 2020
Name: Sharon Donnison Position: Training Manager	Name: Clarissa Bourne Position: Manager Practice and Quality	Name: Joe Young Position: Executive Director Disability Services