



Personal Care Attendant Policy

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General Description

Policy Summary:

The learning environment and residential living are paramount to the Trinity University experience. In order to facilitate equal access to residential experiences at Trinity University, this policy covers student requests for a personal care attendant to assist them in their residence on-campus.

Purpose:

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Fair Housing Act amended in 1988, Trinity University is obligated to ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to Trinity's residence halls and all of the programs and services offered within them.

Scope:

All Trinity University students are covered by this policy.

Policy Content

① Introduction

Trinity University permits students with disabilities who have a documented need for assistance with activities of daily living and/or nursing care within a residential setting, to retain the services of a Personal Care Attendant (PCA). Personal Care Attendant (PCA) services may facilitate higher levels of independent access and participation in College's programs, services, and activities. **Trinity University does not assume coordination of, financial responsibility for, or legal liability for the PCA chosen and hired by the student.**

The services of a Personal Care Attendant (PCA) can be vital to an individual's quality of life. The carefully planned selection of the right agency and individual to fill the role and ongoing effective communication with the PCA is important for a successful experience.

② Student Responsibilities

Students desiring to hire and retain the services of a Personal Care Attendant while on-campus own the following responsibilities.

- Students requesting approval for a Personal Care Attendant must register with Student Accessibility Services following the appropriate procedures for housing accommodations.

It is suggested that a student who anticipates needing a Personal Care Attendant should contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as they make a deposit to reserve a space in the residence halls to begin the process.

- The student will be responsible for providing written documentation from a trained, licensed, and qualified medical professional.

This documentation should include the following items:

- An indication or statement that the PCA is necessary due to disability-related reasons.
- A description of what level of care is needed (e.g., 24-hour presence, waking hours only, three visits a day).

- **The student is solely responsible for selecting, hiring, and training the PCA.**

As a reminder, **Trinity University does not assume coordination of, financial responsibility for, or legal liability for the PCA chosen and hired by the student.** The student will sign a statement indicating that they are aware that the student is responsible for any policy violations committed by the PCA, just as all resident students are responsible for violations committed by their guests.

③ Parameters and Expectations of the PCA

Expectations Held

A hired Personal Care Attendant is responsible for following all applicable Trinity University policies, rules, regulations, and procedures. The hired PCA must sign an agreement with Residential Life describing the rental conditions (if living-in) and specifying that they will abide by the rules and regulations of the University while on campus. A PCA found in violation of university policies will be removed from campus immediately regardless of the contractual arrangement the PCA has with the student.

Live-On Requirements

The living arrangement will depend on the student's disability needs. While PCAs are **not** required to live on campus, a student may choose to arrange for their PCA to do so. The PCA must be of the same sex as the student unless they are the only occupants of the suite. A non-student PCA who lives in the adjoining suite with the student will not have a roommate. Live-in, non-student PCAs will be required to purchase a meal plan and may purchase the following services: technology services, parking permit, and a campus mailbox, if available.

Identification

Non-student PCAs will be required to obtain and carry at all times University identification cards.

Facility Use

In collaboration with Residential Life and Student Accessibility Services, a student requesting a PCA may arrange for that individual's access to their residence and any other facilities necessary on-campus. A PCA may use any campus facility which is open to the public. PCAs may use facilities restricted to students and staff only when accompanying the student.

Relief

If the student requires the assistance of a relief PCA while their primary PCA is off-duty, the relief PCA will follow the same policies detailed above.

Performance Evaluation

Consequences of Policy Violation:

Failure to follow the proper protocol for requesting a Personal Care Attendant and ensuring compliance with this policy may result in the removal of the PCA from campus and require consultation with Student Accessibility Services for further action.

Terms & Definitions

Terms and Definitions:

| Term: | Definition: |
|-------------------------|---|
| Personal Care Attendant | A Personal Care Attendant (PCA) is defined as a person who provides personal care/assistance (chronic or temporary) to a student with a disability, or other health care needs with activities of daily living, including nursing services not administered through the College Health Services or assistance with normal life functions. |
| Reasonable | Students approved for accommodations are held to the same standards as their |

| Term: | Definition: |
|--------------|--|
| Modification | peers and must continue to meet all course objectives and expectations as set by their instructors in the syllabus. "Reasonable and appropriate" refers to the nature of an accommodation, adjustment, and modification made that reflects the student's ability to still meet the course objectives and expectations. |

Related Documents

Related Documents:

| Document Type: | Document Name: | Document Number: |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Policy | Main Campus Board & Residential Agreement | RESL-0002 |
| Policy | City Vista Cover Page Addendum & License Agreement | RESL-0003 |
| Policy | Residential Life Main Campus & City Vista Guest and Visitation Policy | RESL-0007 |

Revision Management

Revision History Log:

| Revision #: | Date: | Recorded By: |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| v1.0 | 8/1/2019 8:45 PM | Katharine Martin |

Vice President Approval:

| Name: | Title: |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Sheryl Tynes | Vice President for Student Life |