

# NATURAL SUPPORT POLICY

Core Services is committed to fostering and encouraging a natural support network of family and friends for individuals supported. Core Services recognizes that natural support networks provide a sense of security and a safety net for people. The individual will choose the extent and frequency of contact with their support network. Core Services encourages and promotes frequent and informal visits in the home by friends and families. Core Services will:

* assist people to continue existing connections and to stimulate potential connections whenever possible
* support people in identifying who are the important people in their life and if the level and type of contact is satisfactory
* assist or provide supports to enable people to maintain connections to people in their support network
* maintain names, addresses and phone numbers of family and friends who are important to the individual
* assist people who may have lost contact with family or friends to re-establish communication by using available internet and government resources to track contact information, make contact, and facilitate communication or visits between the individual and lost contact
* assist and provide support so individuals can make frequent and informal visits to families’ and friends’ homes
* support individuals to attend community and social events to spend time with people of their choosing
* assist people to worship in the church of their choice
* provide training and education identifying staff’s roles in assisting the person to maintain contact
* convene the Circle of Support as needed to ensure people’s health, safety and wellbeing:
	+ assist individuals in making decisions about healthy relationships as new relationships form
	+ determine supports needed during visits
	+ work with family and conservators to ensure health and safety during visits