Privacy
For Adults with I/DD

What does “private” mean?
- A private place is somewhere you know you can be alone, with a door that closes, and a place where someone will knock or announce themselves before entering. A personal bedroom or the home bathroom are good examples of private places.
- “Private” means more than being alone. Public places where you are alone (public restrooms, an alley, a movie theater) are still public places and private activities (such as undressing, masturbating and having sex) should NOT be done there.
- A private place is designed for privacy.
- Privacy does not only describe places. Privacy can also describe activities and conversations.

We all have the right to privacy.
- Privacy is an important aspect of all people’s lives. It is a basic human right and should be respected.
- When privacy is respected it communicates a sense of dignity for the individual.
- Understanding privacy means understanding that our body is special and we make the decision about who can touch us.

Privacy is an important aspect of healthy sexuality.
- Privacy provides an opportunity to be sexual and develop an intimate relationship.
- People with intellectual and developmental disabilities often resort to rushed sexual encounters outdoors or in isolated semi-public places (i.e., unused rooms) because they lack access to a safe private place.
- Understanding privacy is an important tool to help people with I/DD protect themselves against abuse.