RAISE THE BAR: Key State Resources & The Dignity of Risk

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Facilitator/Consultant

Robert Perske

The term "dignity of risk" was coined by disability advocate and author **Robert Perske** in 1972. He introduced the concept in his seminal paper, *"Dignity of Risk and the Mentally ***,"* arguing that overprotection and sheltering people from normal, everyday risks ultimately diminishes their human dignity and stifles personal growth.

Perske, who served as a chaplain at a state residential institution, championed the idea that making choices—and being allowed to experience the consequences—is essential for self-determination and normal human development. [1, 2]

TAKING REASONABLE RISKS HELPS TO DEVELOP WHO WE ARE/WHO WE BECOME

Dignity of Risk

- Means respecting each individual's autonomy and self-determination to make choices for himself or herself
- Means giving people chances to take the risks that go along with ordinary life, which are necessary for personal growth and development
- Is a principle that must be applied with care and support, based on each person's needs, interests and abilities.

Can you think of a time you were told you could not do something because your parents/guardians felt they were protecting you? Or were fearful?

How did it make you feel?

Let’s Discuss

DUTY OF CARE

In the context of disabilities, **duty of care** is a legal and moral obligation that requires individuals and organizations to take reasonable steps to prevent foreseeable harm to a person. It dictates that caregivers, support workers, and institutions must provide an expected standard of safety, well-being, and non-negligence for those in their charge. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

Duty of Care Vs. Dignity of Risk

STATE RESOURCES – Let's Be Proactive

https://www.dhs.state.il.us/

- **PUNS** is a database of Illinois children, adolescents, and adults with developmental disabilities who want or need developmental disability services. The PUNS database helps the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) identify and plan for your services.
- https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=85196

- **Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)-**he Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), of the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS), is the state's primary agency providing services to people with disabilities. DRS works in partnership with people with disabilities and their families to assist them in making informed choices to achieve full community participation through employment, education, and independent living opportunities.

Kimberly L. Johnson, President. Board of Directors, Arc of Illinois

Arc of Illinois

https://www.thearcofil.org/

- The Arc of Illinois advocates to increase investment in community-based supports and transform the intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) service system by championing quality services, empowerment, and equality for all people with IDD, their families, and those who support them

IS IT THE DIGNITY OF RISK?

Where can you make some changes to include the Dignity of Risk where you work?

- Learning/Playing
- School Plays/Concerts
- Award Ceremonies/Graduation
- Everyday Play
- Classroom seating
- Peer to Peer Relationships
- Class Trips

The Dignity of Risk is “Everyone’s Right to Reach Unimaginable Heights”

-The Arc National