

# **RICHTERSVELD MUNICIPALITY**



## **21. SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY**

**RICHTERSVELD MUNICIPALITY  
HUMAN RESOURCE POLICY**

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<b>Approved Date: 09 June 2020</b>	<b>Council Resolution Nr: RVN009/06/2020</b>
<b>Effective Date: 01 July 2020</b>	<b>Review Date: 30 June 2021</b>

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

It is the policy of the Richtersveld Municipality to make every effort to prevent the abuse of any habit forming substance amongst its employees and to assist in the rehabilitation of those employees who have admitting to have developed a dependency on any drug or alcohol. Richtersveld Municipality further acknowledges that dependency on drugs or alcohol is an illness which requires special treatment.

### 1. Definitions

For the purpose of this policy unless the context otherwise indicates –

- 1.1 “**abuse**” means use to bad effect or for a bad purpose,
- 1.2 “**alcohol**” means a substance taken/drunk to infuse drunkenness,
- 1.3 “**drugs**” means medicinal or natural substance causing addiction,
- 1.4 “**dependency**” means unable to do without (in this instance alcohol or drugs)
- 1.5 “**influence**” means affected by alcohol drink,
- 1.6 “**premises**” means any building, vehicle, vessel, train or aircraft,
- 1.7 “**rehabilitation**” means restoring to normal life by training after dependency,
- 1.8 “**workplace**” means any premises or place where a person performs work in the course of his or her employment.

Prevention of alcohol/drug abuse at work is a management responsibility.

### 2. Rules

- 2.1. The Richtersveld Municipality cannot be prescriptive regarding private drinking or drug-use on condition where:
  - 1. an employee’s job performance, attendance, or interpersonal relationships at work are not affected;
  - 2. an employee’s conduct does not cause a safety risk to themselves, fellow workers, Municipal property, clients or members of the public;
  - 3. an employee’s conduct within an official capacity does not cause an injury to the Municipality’s reputation and good standing;
  - 4. an employee does not commit an alcohol or drug related offence in term of the Richtersveld Municipality’s Disciplinary Code.
  - 5. If any of the above are contravened the Richtersveld Municipality reserves the right to evoke disciplinary measures which may include mandatory referral for rehabilitation, if the employee admit that he/she has a problem of misusing of alcohol or drugs.

### 3. Referral Route

- 3.1 The employee may follow the voluntary referral route:
  - 3.1.1 Any offer of assistance does not exempt the employee from standard disciplinary measures.

- 3.1.2 If an offer of assistance is accepted by the employee he/she must:
- render full support towards assessment;
  - co-operate with recommendations of assessment;
  - take full responsibility for the following up of appointments and treatment as prescribed or deemed necessary.
- 3.1.3 The employer will undertake to fund **60%** of rehabilitation fees for alcohol/drug abuse for the first time when an employee is submitted to a Rehabilitation Centre, payment arrangements will be made at salary office for the repayment of the 40% for the employee and it will be made keeping in mind the salary scale of such employee. Only on a Council decision will another 60% contribution be added towards a second submission of the same employee. Any subsequent rehabilitation thereafter will be for the employee's own account.
- 3.1.4 Should an employee refuse assessment or fail to co-operate with treatment /counselling, a report shall be submitted to the Head of Department. The employer reserves the right to implement the disciplinary action in this instance and to collect the employer's financial inputs in this regard.
- 3.1.5 The Council reserves the right to obtain an independent assessment on the employee's dependency prior to agreeing to assist the employee in terms of the abovementioned. Such assessment must be conducted by a registered and recognized body/ authority on the treatment of substance abuse.

#### **4. Treatment**

The principles of treatment are:

- referral – voluntary/mandatory;
- assessment on premises and with outside bodies of the Municipality' choice;
- counselling on and off Municipal premises;
- education;
- rehabilitation back into normal work duties.

Ongoing monitoring which should last for a period mutually agreed upon by the Richtersveld Municipality and the employee concerned.

#### **5. Representation by Trade Unions**

Where the employee concerned is a member of a Trade Union such Trade Union will be kept informed of the steps taken to address the alcohol and/or drug dependency problem. Such employee will have the right to decide on whether the representative Trade Union will be involved and until what stage such Trade Union's involvement will continue.

**AUTHORITY**

MM Approval:

A handwritten signature, possibly 'M. M.', enclosed within a hand-drawn circle.

Date:

08/07/2020

Council Approval:

Date: