SW@Home Policy for Guidance of Membership Approval _____ 09/10/2026

"South Whidbey At Home" (SW@Home), per its mission, seeks to provide a secondary tier of care for those seeking to age-in-place. This level of inter-personal support may for example include companionship, assistance with shopping, transportation/delivery, technology assistance, organizing current and future care, and providing help around the home and yard.

SW@Home is able to grant membership to individuals who, if unable to meet their own primary needs, have internal or external support systems in place to meet these needs. Primary needs include safe housing, adequate food, access to and ability to engage with medical providers or care, and an individual's ability to meet basic physical needs. Basic physical needs include the Activities of Daily Living (ADLs); fundamental self-care tasks such as bathing, dressing, eating, mobility, and toileting.

If individuals are not able to meet ADLs on their own, SW@Home may be able to grant them membership ONLY if they have adequate support in place to meet their basic physical needs. An individual's support network for meeting primary needs may come from a wide variety of sources such as privately paid caregiving help, assistance through government agencies, and/or assistance from family/friend/neighbor/community resources. When an individual unable to meet their primary needs contacts SW@Home, we are committed to aiding them (if desired) in locating and accessing resources to meet their primary needs through, at minimum, referrals to local, state, and federal agencies and programs.

When a member or potential member has been diagnosed with or shows clear signs of any type of cognitive impairment/dementia, the following will apply:

1. Home visit requests will only be made when the member is not alone; a caregiver, family member or other responsible adult must be present/on site for the entire visit. Based on the comfort level of the volunteer, being alone with the member in a room, or while outdoors is acceptable.
2. Requested transportation will be provided only when a caregiver/trusted adult or family member accompanies the member during the trip.

Prior to granting membership to any individual, SW@Home will prioritize both physical and psychological safety for our volunteers. Safety considerations are assessed by trained SW@Home Ambassadors and professional staff. Safety considerations may include potential in-home hazards and/or the presence of individuals with certain mental or physical health conditions (such as severely impaired cognitive function, severe mobility impairment, aggressive or uncared for indoor animals, extreme hoarding/presence of bio-hazards/or dangerous home disrepair).

SW@Home is a non-profit organization which primarily uses volunteers for service provision. Though volunteers are trained and undergo background checks, liability risks preclude us from placing them in unsafe situations. SW@Home also prioritizes protecting its volunteers from any type of aggressive or abusive language or behavior. The Executive Director or her/his assignee will make the final determination for membership acceptance based on this policy, and in consultation with the Board of Directors President or Executive Committee if requested.

This policy was reviewed and approved by the SW@ Home Board of Directors on 09/10/2026

*Sam Wessel- Estes_*

Board President Printed:

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Board President Signature: Date: