

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL RETARDATION**

Policy No.: I.C.3.PO.001
Subject: Respite Centers
Section: Service and Supports, Family Support

Issue Date: April 24, 2007
Effective Date: Upon release
Approved: /S/ Peter H. O'Meara
Commissioner

A. Policy Statement

The Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) Respite Centers are homes or residential units specifically designed to provide planned and scheduled respite to families who care for family members who have mental retardation. Respite is the temporary care of a person with a disability for the purpose of offering relief to the family or caregiver. It is a service that allows for time to reenergize, deal with emergency situations, or engage in personal, social, or routine activities and tasks that otherwise may be postponed or curtailed due to the demands of caring for a person who has a disability.

DMR Respite Centers shall be open twenty-four hours a day from Thursday afternoon to Tuesday morning contingent on family requests and regional resources. The Respite Centers shall be open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week for up to eight weeks during the year, including summer months or school vacations and contingent upon regional resources. Staff assigned to the Respite Centers shall have the skills needed to work with children and adults who have mental retardation and their families.

B. Applicability

This policy applies to all individuals who receive services at DMR Respite Centers. This policy applies to all individual and family support and public services staff responsible for the operations and oversight of Respite Centers.