



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner

Operations Memo FY2019-08

To: DDS Qualified Providers of Residential Services

From: David David, Director of Service Development and Support, Operations Center

CC: Jordan Scheff, Commissioner, Peter Mason, Deputy Commissioner, Kathryn Rock Burns, Chief of Staff, Scott McWilliams, Chief of Fiscal/Administrative Services, MJ McCarthy, Director of Legal and Government Affairs, Valencia Bagby-Young, Director of Health & Clinical Services, Jackson Pierre-Louis, Director of Quality and Systems Improvement, Eugene Harvey, Director of Southbury Training School, Regional Directors, Timothy Baldwin, Fire Chief, Susan Sullivan, Case Manager, CT Community Nonprofit Alliance, Inc., Arc of CT

Date: November 1, 2018

Subject: Code Guidance for Various Living Arrangement Developments

Effective October 1, 2018, the CT Office of the State Building Official and the CT Office of the State Fire Marshal have adopted new editions of building and fire codes. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has been involved in this process to date and will continue to participate in the transition. While we are still reviewing the codes for any potential effect on DDS providers, we wanted to offer you information on a couple of key elements that have been discussed to date.

Sprinklers in homes for three or fewer individuals, in which care is being provided: generally speaking a sprinkler system will not be required in homes with three or fewer individuals. However, a sprinkler will be required if there is an individual in the home who requires Medical Care, as defined by the code being provided. In summary, Medical Care requires three primary components: an individual in the home 1) is dependent upon medical gasses (e.g. oxygen), 2) requires emergency power for life sustaining equipment, and 3) is bedridden and incapable of self-preservation. All three components must be present for one individual in order for the definition of Medical Care to be met.

Homes for four to six individuals under the auspices of DDS: In August of 2009, a memo titled "I-2 Code Guidance for Community Living Arrangement Development" was sent to all providers detailing the need for the use of the I-2 use group within the building and fire codes. Within the 2018 code is a section entitled "Small I-2 homes". This reads as follows:

407.13 Small I-2 homes. Group I-2 homes that serve four to six persons who are incapable of self-preservation and comply with the specific requirements of Section 407.13.1 shall be permitted to utilize the alternate compliance for the required items listed¹

The memo is still in effect from 2009. Any Community Living Arrangement (CLA) development for four or more individuals initiated through award of a new development or through vacating an existing CLA will be required to build or renovate to meet the Small I-2 Home code. In some cases, developments will be required to meet the full I-2 code, as specified in a Request for Proposals. This will ensure full access and availability to all potential future residents of the home.

Should you have any questions on these codes or potential issues on code related topics, please contact DDS Fire Chief Timothy Baldwin at 203-586-2638 (phone), 860-622-4986 (fax), or dds.firesafety@ct.gov.

¹ CT State Building Code, 2018 edition, Chapter 4.