



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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Commissioner

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ORDER

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020 Governor Ned Lamont (Governor), in response to the global pandemic of 2019 Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), declared a public health and civil preparedness emergency throughout the State of Connecticut pursuant to Sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes, to remain in effect through September 9, 2020, unless sooner terminated by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Executive Order 7M, issued on March 25, 2020, authorizes, in part, each state agency commissioner to extend, as deemed reasonably necessary to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic or its effects, any statutory or regulatory time requirements, decision-making requirements, hearings, or other time limitations or deadlines, procedure or legal process pertaining to matters under the agency's jurisdiction, function or power for a period not to exceed 90 days.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority provided by Executive Order 7M, effective immediately, I have determined that the following extensions of statutory and regulatory time requirements, decision-making requirements, hearings, or other time limitations or deadlines, procedure or legal process pertaining to matters under the jurisdiction, function or powers of the Department of Social Services, are extended as provided below as reasonably necessary to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic or its effects:

1. Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 17b-60. Fair Hearings By Commissioner. Application.

- a. Section 17b-60's timeframe for an aggrieved person authorized by law to mail an application for a fair hearing on a decision of the commissioner is extended from 60 to "within 90 days" after the rendition of such decision.
- b. Section 17b-60's timeframe to hold a fair hearing upon receipt of the application for a fair hearing is extended from 30 to "within 60 days" from receipt thereof. The four business day timeframe to hold a hearing if the application concerns a denial of or failure to provide emergency housing is *not* extended pursuant to this Order.

2. Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 17b-61. Decision. Appeal. Extension of Time Limit for Filing Appeal.

- a. Section 17b-61(a)'s timeframe for the commissioner or commissioner's designated hearing officer to render a final decision is extended from 90 to "not later than 120 days" after the date the commissioner receives a request for a fair hearing pursuant to Section 17b-60, except the three business day timeframe to render a final decision if the hearing concerns a denial of or failure to provide emergency housing is *not* extended pursuant to this Order.

3. Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 17b-99. Vendor Fraud Penalties. Distribution of Medical Assistance Program Rules. Regulations.

- a. Section 17b-99(d)(8)'s timeframe for the production of a final written report concerning an audit to be provided to the provider that was the subject of the audit is extended from 60 to "not later than 150 days" after the date of the exit conference, unless there is agreement on a later date or there are other referrals or investigations pending concerning the provider.
- b. Section 17b-99(d)(9)'s timeframe for any provider aggrieved by a decision contained in a final written report to request, in writing, a contested case hearing is extended from 30 to "not later than 120 days" after the receipt of the final report.
- c. Section 17b-99(d)(9)'s timeframe for the designee of the commissioner who presides over the hearing to issue a final decision is extended from 90 to "not later than 180 days" following the close of evidence or the date on which final briefs are filed, whichever occurs later.

4. Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 19a-533. Discrimination Against Indigent Applicants. Definitions. Prohibitions. Record-keeping. Investigation of Complaints. Penalties. Waiting Lists; Not Required to Accept Indigents. Removal from Waiting Lists.

- a. Section 19a-533(h)'s established timeframes are *not* extended pursuant to this Order and remain as modified in accord with the Governor's Executive Order 7L issued on March 24, 2020.

Ordered this 13th day of April, 2020



Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH
Commissioner