

FACILITY LICENSING AND INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

BLAST FAX 2025-16

TO: Home Health Care Agencies, Home Health Aide Agencies and Hospice Agencies

FROM: Jennifer Olsen-Armstrong, MS, RD
Department of Public Health (DPH)
Section Chief, Facility Licensing and Investigations Section

CC: Adelita Orefice, MPM, JD, CHC, Deputy Commissioner, DPH
Lorraine Cullen, MS, RRT, RRT-ACCS, Branch Chief, HQSB
Cheryl Davis, RN Public Health Services Manager, FLIS
Kim Hriceniak, RN, Public Health Services Manager, FLIS
James Augustyn, Public Health Services Manager, FLIS

DATE: September 26, 2025

SUBJECT: Public Act 25-168: Home Health and Hospice Agency Requirements for Patient Intake Process, Employee Training, Violence and Abuse Reporting, and Information Sharing

Please be reminded that Sections 184-186 of Public Act (PA) [25-168](#) expand certain home health agency requirements to hospice agencies effective October 1, 2025.

Under current law, home health care agencies and home health aide agencies are required, as part of patient intake, to collect information on a client's criminal, substance use, and mental health, as well as information on the location of the client including crime rate and presence of hazardous materials. Home health care agencies and home health aid agencies are also required to pass such information to the employee working with the client. These agencies are also required to provide training on safety and to report on violence and threats of violence directed at their employees.

Sections 184-186 of Public Act 25-168 expand these requirements to hospice agencies and require health care providers to share upon transfer, whenever feasible, any information about the client's background that would otherwise be collected by the home health care agencies, home health aide agencies, and hospice agencies upon intake.

In part, **Public Act 25-168, Section 184** amends section 19a-491f of the general statutes by adding the information that is underlined and requires:

Subsection (a) is amended by adding the underlined language that follows: Each home health care agency and home health aide agency, as such terms are defined in section 19a-490, except any such agency that is licensed as a hospice organization by the Department of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-122b or that operates solely as a hospice agency, a hospice program, as defined in subsection (b) of section 19-13-D72 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, a hospice-based home care program, as described in subsection (o) of section 19a-495-5b of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, or a hospice inpatient facility, as defined in section 19a-495-6a of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, shall, during intake of a prospective client who will be receiving services from the agency, collect and provide to any employee assigned to provide services to such client, to the extent feasible and consistent with state and federal laws, information regarding: (1) The client, including, if applicable, (A) the client's history of violence toward health care workers; (B) the client's history of substance use; (C) the client's history of domestic abuse; (D) a list of the client's diagnoses, including, but not limited to, psychiatric history; (E) whether the client's diagnoses or symptoms thereof have remained stable over time; and (F) any information concerning violent acts involving the client that is contained in judicial records or any sex offender registry information concerning the client; and (2) the location where the employee will provide services, including, if known to the agency, the (A) crime rate for the municipality in which the employee will provide services, as determined by the most recent annual report concerning crime in the state issued by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection pursuant to section 29-1c, (B) presence of any hazardous materials at the location, including, but not limited to, used syringes, (C) presence of firearms or other weapons at the location, (D) status of the location's fire alarm system, and (E) presence of any other safety hazards at the locations.

Subsection (b) requires that each agency annually reviews the annual report on crime-related data to collect information regarding the locations in the state where such agency's employees provide services. The Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection [Crime in Connecticut Annual Reports](#) issued pursuant to section 29-1c contains a compilation of crime data.

Subsection (c) requires that: Notwithstanding any provision of subsection (a) or (b) of this section, no such agency shall deny the provision of services to a client solely based on (1) the inability or refusal of the client to provide the information described in subsection (a) of this section, or (2) the information collected from the client pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 185 of Public Act 25-168 amends Section 19a-491g of the general statutes by removing the language in brackets and adding the language that is underlined:

(a) Each home health care agency, [and] home health aide agency and hospice agency, as such terms are defined in section 19a-490, [except any such agency that is licensed as a hospice organization by the Department of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-122b,] shall (1) (A) adopt and implement a health and safety training curriculum for home care workers that is consistent with the health and safety training curriculum for such workers that is endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, including, but not limited to, training to recognize hazards commonly encountered in home care workplaces and applying practical solutions to manage risks and improve safety, and (B)

provide annual staff training consistent with such health and safety curriculum; and (2) [conduct monthly safety assessments with direct care staff at the agency's monthly staff meeting] establish a system by which staff may promptly report an incidence of violence or potential threat of violence in conjunction with monthly safety assessments conducted with direct care staff, which assessments may occur through in-person or virtual staff meetings or other communication methods, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, text messages, telephone calls, a hotline or a reporting portal.

Sec. 186 of Public Act 25-168 amends subsection (a) of section 19a-491h of the general statutes by removing the language in brackets and adding the language that is underlined:

(a) Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, each home health care agency, [and] home health aide agency and hospice agency, as such terms are defined in section 19a-490, [except any such agency that is licensed as a hospice organization by the Department of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-122b,] shall report, in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health, each instance of verbal abuse that is perceived as a threat or danger by a staff member of such agency, physical abuse, sexual abuse or any other abuse by an agency client or any other person against a staff member [of] relating to such staff member's employment with such agency and the actions taken by the agency to ensure the safety of the staff member.

Please refer to [PA 25-168](#) for additional information.