

Public Comments

Interested persons may submit written data, views, arguments, information or comments on the proposed amendment to Rita Arceneaux, Confidential Executive Assistant, Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, 630 Camp Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 568-6820, ex. 242. She is responsible for responding to inquiries. Written comments will be accepted until 4 p.m., January 19, 2016.

Public Hearing

A request pursuant to R.S. 49:953(A)(2) for a public hearing must be made in writing and received by the board within 20 days of the date of this notice.

If a public hearing is requested to provide data, views, arguments, information or comments orally in accordance with the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, the hearing will be held on January 25, 2016, at 9 a.m. at the office of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, 630 Camp Street, New Orleans, LA 70130. Any person wishing to attend should call to confirm that a hearing is being held.

Cecilia Mouton, M.D.
Executive Director

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

RULE TITLE: **General Information; Complaints and Investigations; Adjudication**

I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (Summary)

Other than publication costs during FY 16, it is not anticipated that the proposed changes will have further impact on the Board or any other state or local governmental unit. Publication costs associated with notice (\$333) and promulgation (\$213) of the changes are estimated at a combined total of \$546 in FY 16. The Board of Medical Examiners proposes to adopt an organizational rule (8315) specifying separation of duties of the executive director and director of investigations. The Board also seeks to amend its rules on complaints and investigations of physicians to further clarify its intended procedures subsequent to rules submitted in September 2015 and pursuant to requirements adopted by Act 441 of the 2015 Regular Legislative Session (LAC 46:XLV 9707, 9709, 9711).

II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

There is no anticipated effect on the revenue collections of the Board of Medical Examiners or any state or local governmental unit.

III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

It is not anticipated that the proposed changes will effect costs, paperwork or workload of physicians, nor on receipts and/or income of licensees or non-governmental groups.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

It is not anticipated that the proposed changes will have any impact on competition or employment in either the public or private sector.

Cecilia Mouton, M.D.
Executive Director
1512#042

Evan Brasseaux
Staff Director
Legislative Fiscal Office

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Health and Hospitals Bureau of Health Services Financing

Direct Service Worker Registry (LAC 48:I.Chapter 92)

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing proposes to amend LAC 48:I.Chapter 92 as authorized by R.S. 37:1031-1034 and R.S. 40:2179-2179.1. This proposed Rule is promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq.

In compliance with Act 451 of the 2005 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature and Act 29 of the 2011 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing adopted provisions governing medication administration and the performance of noncomplex nursing tasks by direct service workers (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 38, Number 12).

The department has now determined that it is necessary to amend the provisions governing the DSW Registry in order to align the DSW Registry Rule with R.S. 40:2179-40:2179.1, and to provide information on how to access the DSW Registry online database for verification purposes.

Title 48

PUBLIC HEALTH—GENERAL

Part I. General Administration

Subpart 3. Health Standards

Chapter 92. Direct Service Worker Registry

Subchapter A. General Provisions

§9201. Definitions

Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)—the functions or tasks which are performed either independently or with supervision that assist an individual to live in a community setting, or that provide assistance for mobility (i.e., bathing, dressing, eating, grooming, walking, transferring and toileting).

DAL—Division of Administrative Law or its successor.

Department—the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH).

Direct Service Worker (DSW)—an unlicensed person who provides personal care or other services and support to persons with disabilities or to the elderly to enhance their well-being, and who is involved in face-to-face direct contact with the person. Functions performed may include, but are not limited to, assistance and training in activities of daily living, personal care services, and job-related supports. Examples of direct service workers employed in a licensed health care setting include, but are not limited to:

1. patient care technicians;
2. hospital aides;
3. unlicensed assistive personnel (UAPs);
4. home health aides;
5. hospice aides;
6. direct care workers;
7. mental health technicians;
8. mental health aides;
9. mental health orderlies;

10. nursing aides or hospital orderlies;
11. nursing assistants;
12. patient care aides; and/or
13. any persons hired as unlicensed direct care staff that meet the provisions of this chapter.

Note: Those persons who are listed on the Certified Nurse Aide Registry and who are employed as certified nurse aides in a licensed nursing facility and/or a skilled nursing facility within a hospital are not included under these provisions as a direct service worker.

Disability—a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of an individual or who has a history of such impairment or who is regarded as having such impairment; having a condition (such as an illness or an injury) that damages or limits a person's physical or mental abilities, either temporarily or on a permanent basis.

Elderly—persons who are elderly are considered being past middle age and approaching old age, of, or relating to, or having characteristics of older persons, or life in later years; sometimes used to describe any adult over 75 years old or individuals over 65 years old who have functional impairments.

* * *

Exploitation—the illegal or improper use or management of the funds, assets or property of an adult with disabilities or who is elderly, or the use of the power-of-attorney or guardianship of an adult with disabilities or who is elderly for one's own profit or advantage.

* * *

Finding—allegations of abuse, neglect, exploitation or extortion that are placed on the registry by the department for the following reasons:

1. after a final decision by an administrative law judge or a court of law, after all appeal delays afforded by law are exhausted; or
2. failure by the accused to timely request an appeal in accordance with the provisions of this Rule.

Health Care Provider—any health care facility, agency, or entity licensed or certified by DHH. Such entities may be referred to in other laws, statutes and regulations as providers, agencies, clinics, residential care units, homes or facilities. Health care providers include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. nursing facilities;
2. hospice providers;
3. hospitals;
4. intermediate care facilities;
5. adult residential care providers;
6. adult day health care centers;
7. home health agencies;
8. behavioral health providers;
9. dialysis units; or
10. home and community based services providers.

Health Standards Section (HSS)—the section of the Department of Health and Hospitals responsible for the licensing and certification of health care providers.

* * *

Independent Living Environment—Repealed.

Major Life Activities—functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working.

* * *

Person-Specific Training—a set of knowledge, skills, training and abilities that address the client's strengths, restrictions relative to aging, disabilities, health care needs and related factors in order to meet the unique needs of the person receiving care.

Plan of Care—a plan that describes the assistance or services required to be provided to a person receiving home and community-based services, as defined herein. The plan also describes who shall provide the assistance and the frequency and/or duration of the services that shall be provided.

* * *

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2179-2179.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 32:2058 (November 2006), amended LR 33:95 (January 2007), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 38:3175 (December 2012), LR 42:

§9202. Introduction

A. The Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) shall maintain a registry of individuals for whom specific findings of abuse, neglect, exploitation or extortion have been substantiated by the department, an administrative law judge, or a court of law.

B. – B.6....

C. Licensed health care providers shall access the registry to determine if there is a finding that a prospective hire or currently employed direct service worker has been determined to have committed abuse or neglect of an individual being supported, or misappropriated the individual's property or funds. If there is such a finding on the registry, the prospective employee shall not be hired nor shall a current employee have continued employment with the licensed health care provider.

D. All provisions of this Chapter, except Subchapter D, §§9241-9261, Medication Administration and Noncomplex Tasks in Home and Community-Based Settings, applies to any licensed health care provider who employs direct service workers who provide personal care or other services and support to persons with disabilities or to the elderly to enhance their well-being, and who is involved in face-to-face direct contact with the person.

1. Exception. Home and community-based services providers are required to meet all provisions of this Chapter, inclusive of Subchapter D, §§9241-9261, if the HCBS provider employs direct service workers who perform medication administration and noncomplex medical tasks in the HCBS setting.

E. The provisions of this Chapter shall apply to direct service workers who are compensated, regardless of the setting, and specifically do not apply to those direct service workers listed on the Certified Nurse Aide Registry established under rules promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2179-2179.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 32:2059 (November 2006), amended LR 33:95 (January 2007), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 38:3176 (December 2012), LR 42:

Subchapter C. Provider Participation

§9231. Health Care Provider Responsibilities

A. Prior to hiring any direct service worker or trainee, the licensed health care provider shall:

1. assure that the individual is at least 18 years of age, and that they have the ability to read, write and comprehend the English language; and

2. access the registry in accordance with the provisions of §9202.C.

B. The health care provider shall have a written process to check the registry every six months to determine if any currently employed direct service worker or trainee has been placed on the registry with a finding that he/she has been determined to have committed abuse or neglect of an individual being supported or misappropriated the individual's property or funds.

1. The provider shall follow the agency's process in demonstration of compliance with this procedure.

2. If there is such a finding on the registry, the employee shall not have continued employment with the licensed health care provider in accordance with the provisions of §9202.C.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2179-2179.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 32:2061 (November 2006), amended LR 33:97 (January 2007), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 38:3176 (December 2012), LR 42:

Subchapter D. Medication Administration and Noncomplex Tasks in Home and Community-Based Settings

§9257. Liability

A. - B. ...

C. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, licensed agencies that employ direct service workers shall be liable for acts or omissions of the direct service worker.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1031-1034.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 38:3179 (December 2012), amended LR 42:

§9261. Violations and Noncompliance

A. ...

B. In accordance with §9259.A(2), authorization for a direct service worker to perform any of the tasks specified in R.S. 37:1032 shall be terminated if the registered nurse certifies that the direct service worker can no longer perform the prescribed tasks safely and the direct service worker shall immediately cease performing such procedures.

C. Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1031-1034.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 38:3180 (December 2012), amended LR 42:

Subchapter E. Violations

§9273. Allegations of Direct Service Worker Wrong-Doing

A. The department, through the Division of Administrative Law, or its successor, provides a process for the review, investigation, and appeal of all allegations of

wrong-doing by direct service workers. Direct service workers and trainees shall not:

1. - 2. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2179-2179.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 32:2061 (November 2006), amended LR 33:98 (January 2007), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 38:3180 (December 2012), LR 42:

§9275. Notice of Violation

A. When there are substantiated allegations against the direct service worker, either through oral or written evidence, the department will notify the individual(s) implicated in the investigation of the following:

1. - 2. ...

3. the right to request from HSS an informal discussion (informal dispute resolution process); and

4. the right to request from the Division of Administrative Law an administrative hearing (appeal).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2179-2179.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 32:2061 (November 2006), amended LR 33:98 (January 2007), LR 42:

§9277. Informal Dispute Resolution

A. When a direct service worker feels that he/she has been wrongly accused, the following procedure shall be followed:

1. The direct service worker may request an informal dispute resolution (IDR) within 15 calendar days of the receipt of the department's notice of violation. The request for an IDR shall be made to the HSS in writing.

2. The IDR is designed:

a. to provide an opportunity for the direct service worker to informally discuss the allegations that make the basis for placement of the finding;

b. - c. ...

3. An IDR session will be arranged within 20 days of receipt of the written request.

4. During the IDR, the direct service worker will be afforded the opportunity to:

a. talk with agency personnel assigned to the IDR;

b. - e. ...

5. Notice of the results of the IDR decision will be forwarded to the DSW in writing. Such written notice will include any further opportunities for appeal, if necessary and/or appropriate.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2179-2179.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 32:2061 (November 2006), amended LR 33:98 (January 2007), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 38:3180 (December 2012), LR 42:

Subchapter F. Administrative Hearings

§9285. General Provisions

A. ...

1. The request for an administrative hearing shall be made in writing to the Division of Administrative Law, or its successor.

2. The request shall contain a statement setting forth the specific allegations which the direct service worker disputes and the reasons for this dispute.

A.3. – B. ...

B.1. – B.1.c. Repealed.

C. The administrative hearing shall be conducted by an administrative law judge from the Division of Administrative Law, or its successor, as authorized by R.S. 46:107 and according to the Administrative Procedure Act.

1. – 9. Repealed.

D. If there is a final and binding administrative hearing decision to place a finding on the DSW Registry against the direct service worker, the department shall place the direct service worker's name and the adverse findings on the DSW Registry. The occurrence and findings will remain on the DSW Registry permanently.

D.1. – H. Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2179-2179.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 32:2062 (November 2006), amended LR 33:98 (January 2007), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 38:3180 (December 2012), LR 42:

§9287. Preliminary Conferences

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2179-2179.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 32:2062 (November 2006), amended LR 33:99 (January 2007), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 38:3180 (December 2012), repealed LR 42:

§9293. Failure to Appear at Administrative Hearings

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2179-2179.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 32:2063 (November 2006), amended LR 33:100 (January 2007), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 38:3181 (December 2012), repealed LR:42:

Family Impact Statement

In compliance with Act 1183 of the 1999 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the impact of this proposed Rule on the family has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have no impact on family functioning, stability and autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972.

Poverty Impact Statement

In compliance with Act 854 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the poverty impact of this proposed Rule has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have no impact on child, individual, or family poverty in relation to individual or community asset development as described in R.S. 49:973.

Provider Impact Statement

In compliance with House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 170 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the provider impact of this proposed Rule has

been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have no impact on the staffing level requirements or qualifications required to provide the same level of service, no direct or indirect cost to the provider to provide the same level of service, and will have no impact on the provider's ability to provide the same level of service as described in HCR 170.

Public Comments

Interested persons may submit written comments to Cecile Castello, Health Standards Section, P.O. Box 3767, Baton Rouge, LA 70821 or by email to MedicaidPolicy@la.gov. Ms. Castello is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this proposed Rule.

Public Hearing

A public hearing on this proposed Rule is scheduled for Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 118, Bienville Building, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA. At that time all interested persons will be afforded an opportunity to submit data, views or arguments either orally or in writing. The deadline for receipt of all written comments is 4:30 p.m. on the next business day following the public hearing.

Kathy H. Kliebert
Secretary

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

RULE TITLE: Direct Service Worker Registry

I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (Summary)

It is anticipated that the implementation of this proposed Rule will have no programmatic fiscal impact to the state other than the cost of promulgation for FY 15-16. It is anticipated that \$1,944 (SGF) will be expended in FY 15-16 for the state's administrative expense for promulgation of this proposed Rule and the final Rule.

II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

It is anticipated that the implementation of this proposed Rule will not affect revenue collections since the licensing fees, in the same amounts, will continue to be collected.

III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

This proposed Rule amends the provisions governing the Direct Service Worker (DSW) Registry in order to revise and clarify these provisions to align the DSW Registry Rule with R.S. 40:2179-2179.1, and to provide information for accessing the DSW Registry online database for verification purposes. It is anticipated that the implementation of this proposed Rule will have no economic cost to health care providers in FY 15-16, FY 16-17, and FY 17-18, but will be beneficial to providers by providing online access to the DSW Registry database free of charge to assist with employment verifications.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

This rule has no known effect on competition and employment.

Cecile Castello
Director
1512#070

Evan Brasseaux
Staff Director
Legislative Fiscal Office