



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
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HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17105-2675

ADULT RESIDENTIAL LICENSING

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January 2, 2009

Dear Personal Care Home Operator:

Attached is a Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare Statement of Policy increasing the personal needs allowance (PNA) for personal care home (PCH) residents from \$60 per month to \$85 per month effective January 2009.

As you may know, there has been no increase in the PNA for PCH residents since 1993. Since then, the cost of clothing, transportation, Medicaid and Medicare premiums, medication co-payments and other resident expenses have increased significantly.

This PNA increase is being implemented to coincide with a \$37 per month increase in the Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit for 2009. Consequently, the increase will not result in a decrease in PCH revenues. In fact, homes choosing to do so may increase rent for residents receiving SSI by the \$12 remaining in the monthly benefit increase.

This increase in the PNA applies to the regulatory requirements at 55 Pa.Code § 2600.25(c) (related to the resident-home contract) and § 2600.27(a) (related to SSI recipients). Please ensure that resident-home contracts for SSI residents reflect this change in the PNA and that SSI recipients are not charged more than their actual monthly income reduced by this new PNA amount. Failure to do so may result in the citation of regulatory violations.

Please feel free to contact your appropriate regional licensing office with any questions regarding this PNA increase.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen E. Kroh".

Karen E. Kroh, Director
Adult Residential Licensing

STATEMENTS OF POLICY

Title 55--PUBLIC WELFARE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

[55 PA. CODE CH. 2600]

Personal Care Homes

[39 Pa.B. 26]

[Saturday, January 3, 2009]

Subject :

Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for Residents of Personal Care Homes.

Scope :

This statement of policy applies to personal care homes governed by Chapter 2600 (relating to personal care homes).

Purpose

The purpose of this statement of policy is to announce an increase in the PNA for personal care home residents who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), as referenced in §§ 2600.25(c)(1) and 2600.27(a) (relating to resident-home contract; and SSI recipients).

Background

The PNA is the minimum amount of the resident's own funds that the resident must be permitted to retain for personal expenditures after charges for rent and other services have been paid. The Public Welfare Code (62 P. S. §§ 101--5001.1304) authorizes the Department of Public Welfare (Department) to determine the amount of the PNA. See 62 P. S. § 1057.3(a)(6). The last increase in the PNA was implemented in 1993 to increase the amount from \$30 to \$60.

While personal care homes must provide for each resident's housing, food and personal care needs, residents remain personally responsible for the cost of clothing, transportation, Medicaid and Medicare premiums, medication copayments, and personal purchases, such as snacks and entertainment.

Discussion

In January 2009, the Federal SSI benefit will increase by \$37 per month. The Department is increasing the PNA by \$25 per month, from \$60 to \$85, effective January 1, 2009. The remaining \$12 per month from the Federal increase will be available to personal care homes that choose to raise their rent charges.

This increase will have no fiscal impact on the State budget.

Effective Date

This statement of policy is effective January 1, 2009.

Contact Person

Comments and questions related to this statement of policy may be directed to Matthew J. Jones, Director of Operations, Adult Residential Licensing, Department of Public Welfare, Room 423, Health and Welfare Building, 7th and Forster Streets, Harrisburg, PA 17120, (717) 772-4982, matjones@state.pa.us.

ESTELLE B. RICHMAN,
Secretary

(Editor's Note : The regulations of the Department of Public Welfare are amended by adding a statement of policy in § 2600.25a to read as set forth in Annex A.)

Fiscal Note: 14-BUL-079. No fiscal impact; (8) recommends adoption.

Annex A
TITLE 55. PUBLIC WELFARE
PART IV. ADULT SERVICES MANUAL
Subpart E. RESIDENTIAL AGENCIES/FACILITIES/SERVICES
CHAPTER 2600. PERSONAL CARE HOMES
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

§ 2600.25a. Personal needs allowance for residents of personal care homes--statement of policy.

The personal needs allowance for residents of personal care homes who receive Supplemental Security Income is \$85.

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 09-10. Filed for public inspection January 2, 2009, 9:00 a.m.]