

+-----+
 | INFORMATIONAL LETTER |
 +-----+

TRANSMITTAL: 91 INF-55

DIVISION: Adult Services

TO: Commissioners of
 Social Services

DATE: October 8, 1991

SUBJECT: Family Type Homes for Adults: Clarification of the
 Use of Space in Family Type Homes for Other
 Activities

SUGGESTED

DISTRIBUTION: Directors of Services
 Family Type Homes for Adults Coordinators
 Adult Services Staff
 Staff Development Coordinators

CONTACT PERSON: Any questions concerning this release should be
 directed to Thomas Burton at 1-800-342-3715,
 extension 432-2987

ATTACHMENTS: None

FILING REFERENCES

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
86 INF-18		489	Article 7		
86 INF-37		492	of SSL		

The purpose of this transmittal is to clarify the intent of certain provisions of Section 489.12 of the Department's regulations pertaining to the use of space for other activities in a Family Type Home for Adults.

Space in a Family Type Home for Adults should be used only for long-term residential care and for family activities. However, Section 489.12(b) of the regulations allows social services districts to grant written approval to an operator to use space for other activities, which include, but are not limited to, room and board to individuals not in need of personal care and/or supervision, respite care (including day care) or Protective Services for Adults (PSA) placements. In order to obtain approval, the operator is required to demonstrate:

that the proposed use is not incompatible with the Family Type Home program; and

that the additional use can be physically accommodated within the home.

Recently, the Department has received several inquiries regarding the use of space in Family Type Homes for other activities. In addition, in reviewing several recent applications, we have noted that some social services districts have granted permission for a large number of boarders and/or adult day care participants (eight to twelve) in some Family Type Homes. It is our concern that such large numbers of non-residents are not compatible with the Family Type Home program.

Presented below are guidelines which social services districts can utilize in deciding whether to grant approval for other activities in Family Type Homes.

RESPITE CARE

In considering whether to grant approval for the provision of respite care in a Family Type Home, a social services district should assure that:

the proposed resident meets the admissions standards for a Family Type Home set forth in Section 489.7 of the regulations and is not in need of a higher level of care; and

the home does not exceed its certified capacity by admitting a temporary resident who requires personal care and/or supervision.

The Department recommends that social services district staff assess the proposed temporary resident to assure appropriateness for a Family Type Home.

With regard to the length of stay for respite care, the Department recommends a time limit of thirty (30) days. This limit is consistent with the emergency placement provisions for Protective Services for Adults (PSA) and will assure that the placement is temporary. If a placement lasts longer than 30 days, the resident should be admitted to the home in accordance with all of the provisions of Section 489.7 of the regulations.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES FOR ADULTS PLACEMENTS

Among the services included under Protective Services for Adults (PSA), social services districts may provide emergency room and board as an integral but subordinate part of PSA for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days. Family Type Homes may be used by social services districts as an emergency placement resource for PSA clients under the following conditions:

the client appears to meet the admissions standards set forth in Section 489.7 of the regulations; and

the home does not exceed its certified capacity by admitting a PSA client who requires personal care and/or supervision.

Social services districts may use the 30 day time period to gather more information on the client, complete an assessment and develop a plan for service. If placement in the Family Type Home is part of the services plan, the district can use this time to assist the client in obtaining a medical evaluation and otherwise document that the client is an appropriate resident in accordance with Section 489.7 of the Department's regulations.

ADULT DAY CARE

There are no specific regulations for the provision of adult day care in Family Type Homes. However, after reviewing Part 492 of the Department's regulations, which pertains to the provision of adult day services in larger adult care facilities (adult homes, residences for adults and enriched housing programs), the Department recommends that permission to provide adult day care should not be granted to a new Family Type Home operator. A social services district should evaluate the operator's performance as a Family Type Home provider over a period of time (one year or longer) before granting approval for the provision of day services. The regulations for the provision of adult day services in larger adult care facilities require the Department to find that a substantially consistent high level of care is being provided to residents of the facility before approval to provide day services is given.

In addition, the number of Family Type Home residents and adult day care clients should not exceed a total number of six (6) persons. Given the needs of the residents as well as those of the day care clients, the Department strongly feels that an operator cannot provide adequate care to a larger number. Also, it is essential that the home-like environment of the Family Type Home program be maintained.

ROOM AND BOARD

As noted above, an issue of concern to the Department is the fact that a few social services districts have given permission to several Family Type Home operators to provide room and board to a large number of persons (four to

eight). In addition, there have been problems with the screening of "boarders." As a consequence, districts have found that individuals classified as boarders were actually in need of personal care and supervision, with homes exceeding their certified capacity as a result. In at least one home, "boarders" were found to be in need of nursing facility care.

In order to address these problems, the Department recommends the following guidelines for the approval of boarders in Family Type Homes.

The total number of Family Type Home residents and boarders should not exceed 6. This number preserves the home-like environment, which is the cornerstone of the Family Type Home program. This number is also the same as the total capacity limit placed on the Family Care Homes certified by the State Offices of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

Although medical evaluations of boarders are not required, the Department recommends that the social services districts screen all boarders to assure that they do not need personal care and/or supervision. We also recommend ongoing monitoring of boarders at the time of the required semi-annual visits to the Family Type Homes in order to prevent problems with over-capacity and/or appropriateness of placement.

William E. Gould
Acting Deputy Commissioner
Division of Adult Services