



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF AGING
 Harrisburg, Pa. 17101

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING

1. File Number: APD-85- ²⁵ 17-2		2. Disposition: This APD rescinds APD # 82-2	
3. Issuance Date: October 1, 1985		4. Effective Date: October 1, 1985	
5. Program Area: <i>Domiciliary Care</i> Placement Services			
6. Origin: Division of Long Term Care		7. Contact: Division of Field Operations (717) 783-6007	

AGING PROGRAM DIRECTIVE

SUBJECT: STATEWIDE EXPANSION OF THE DOMICILIARY CARE PROGRAM

TO: EXECUTIVE STAFF
 DIVISION OF FIELD OPERATIONS
 AREA AGENCIES ON AGING

DPW, OFFICE OF POLICY, PLANNING
 AND EVALUATION
 PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON AGING
 COMPTROLLER

FROM: *Alma R. Jacobs*
 ALMA R. JACOBS
 SECRETARY
 DEPARTMENT OF AGING

REGULATORY REFERENCE: Pennsylvania Act 78-70, Section 2203-A(16).

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Aging Program Directive is to set forth policy for the statewide expansion of the Domiciliary Care Program.

BACKGROUND: The Domiciliary Care Program is the result of cooperative planning between the Department of Aging, and program Offices of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Income Maintenance within the Department of Public Welfare. This interdisciplinary approach avoided duplication of effort and allowed persons to be served on the basis of need rather than disability group.

The Domiciliary Care Placement Unit of the AAA is responsible for assessing clients, inspecting homes for certification, and notifying the county assistance office to initiate or terminate the State supplement. In addition, the Placement Unit will assure the appropriateness of placements, the continuing need for the provision of care, and the provision of community services for Domiciliary Care residents.

Domiciliary Care residents are persons who are 18 years of age and older who have difficulty in every day living because of their frailties of age or due to physical, visual or mental impairment. Persons are assessed using the standardized assessment tool (SAAF) to determine whether Domiciliary Care is needed or whether the individual could live either independently or is in need of 24 hour institutional or nursing care. Client assessment is a critical dimension of the program and is designed to prevent inappropriate service response or placement, and to determine eligibility for the Domiciliary Care income supplement. Individuals determined as needing Domiciliary Care and as being eligible to receive the income supplement are placed in a certified home or are placed on a waiting list for service. The paying mechanism for the State supplement is the Social Security Administration.

Domiciliary Care clients are placed in certified private residences with a family-like atmosphere. The maximum number of clients allowed in the home is 13; however, most homes have 1 to 3 residents. A home will be certified only if it meets rigorous fire, safety, health, sanitation and program standards.

CONTENT:

Statewide Implementation

Act 70 of June 20, 1978, which established the Department of Aging, explicitly requires the Department to administer and supervise a Domiciliary Care Program for aged and disabled adults. In order to properly administer the program, the Department issued proposed regulations. However, the Attorney General's Office disapproved the regulations on the basis that nowhere in Act 70 is there any indication that the Department of Aging's obligation to administer the Domiciliary Care Program is satisfied if the program exists in only a few counties. Absent such a reference in the statute, the Attorney General's Office ruled that the General Assembly intended the Department of Aging to implement the program throughout the Commonwealth.

Virtually every AAA has complied with the ruling by the Attorney General's office. The Department maintains the legislative requirement to administer the Dom Care program, and will continue to work with AAAs toward the goal of statewide implementation.