

**DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

**Department of Health and Hospitals  
Bureau of Health Services Financing**

**Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons  
with Developmental Disabilities  
Licensing Standards  
(LAC 48:I.8595 and 8599)**

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing amends LAC 48:I.8595 and §8599 in the Medical Assistance Program as authorized by R.S. 36:254. This Emergency Rule is promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, 49:953(B)(1) et seq., and shall be in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Act or until adoption of the final Rule, whichever occurs first.

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing repealed the provisions governing the minimum licensing standards for intermediate care facilities I and II, community homes and group homes, and adopted provisions to incorporate these facilities under a single comprehensive Rule for intermediate care facilities for persons with developmental disabilities (ICFs/DD) (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 38, Number 12).

Act 540 of the 2006 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature amended R.S. 29:726(F) to provide for rapid communications in times of disaster or emergencies. In

compliance with Act 540, the department now proposes to amend the provisions governing ICFs/DD to require timely filing of electronic reports related to census information and other needed information during declared disasters or emergencies.

This action is being taken to prevent imminent peril to the health, safety or welfare of Louisiana citizens who are residents of ICFs/DD. It is estimated that implementation of this Emergency Rule will have no programmatic costs for state fiscal year 2015-2016.

Effective April 7, 2016, the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing amends the provisions governing the licensing standards for intermediate care facilities for persons with developmental disabilities.

**Title 48**

**PUBLIC HEALTH - GENERAL**

**Part I. General Administration**

**Subpart 3. Licensing and Certification**

**Chapter 85. Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Developmental Disabilities**

**Subchapter G. Emergency Preparedness**

**§8595. Emergency Preparedness Plan**

A. - B.15.f. ...

C. An ICF/DD shall electronically enter current facility information into the department's ESF-8 Portal or into the

current DHH Emergency Preparedness webpage or electronic database for reporting.

1. The following information shall be entered or updated before the fifteenth of each month:

a. operational status;

b. census;

c. emergency contact and destination location information; and

d. emergency evacuation transportation needs categorized by the following types:

i. *Red*-high risk residents who will need to be transported by advanced life support ambulance due to dependency on mechanical or electrical life sustaining devices or very critical medical condition;

ii. *Yellow*-residents who are not dependent on mechanical or electrical life sustaining devices, but cannot be transported using normal means (buses, vans, cars), may need to be transported by an ambulance; however, in the event of inaccessibility of medical transport, buses, vans or cars may be used as a last resort; and

iii. *Green*-residents who do not need specialized transportation may be transported by car, van, bus or wheelchair accessible transportation.

2. An ICF/DD shall also enter or update the facility's information upon request, or as described per notification of an emergency declared by the secretary.

Emergency events may include, but are not limited to:

- a. hurricanes;
- b. floods;
- c. fires;
- d. chemical or biological hazards;
- e. power outages;
- f. tornados;
- g. tropical storms; and
- h. severe weather.

3. Effective immediately, upon notification of an emergency declared by the secretary, all ICFs/DD shall file an electronic report with the ESF-8 Portal or into the current DHH Emergency Preparedness webpage or electronic database for reporting.

a. The electronic report shall be filed, as prescribed by department, throughout the duration of the emergency declaration.

b. The electronic report shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

- i. status of operation;
- ii. availability of beds;

- iii. generator status;
- iv. evacuation status;
- v. shelter in place status;
- vi. mobility status of clients;
- vii. range of ages of clients;
- ix. intellectual levels/needs of clients;

and

x. any other client or facility related information that is requested by the department.

NOTE: The electronic report shall not be used to request resources or to report emergency events.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and R.S. 40:2180-2180.5.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 38:3207 (December 2012), amended LR 42:

**§8599. Notification of Evacuation, Relocation, or Temporary Cessation of Operations**

A. In the event that an ICF/DD evacuates, temporarily relocates or temporarily ceases operations at its licensed location as a result of an evacuation order issued by the state, local or parish OHSEP, the ICF/DD must immediately give notice to the Health Standards Section as well as the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) and OHSEP as

directed by filing an electronic report with the ESF-8 Portal or into the current DHH Emergency Preparedness webpage or electronic database for reporting:

A.1. - E. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and R.S. 40:2180-2180.5.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 38:3208 (December 2012), amended LR 42:

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 Emergency Rule. A copy of this Emergency Rule is available for review by interested parties at parish Medicaid offices.

Rebekah E. Gee MD, MPH

Secretary