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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Private Duty Services

2007 SEP -7 PM 3:19

OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

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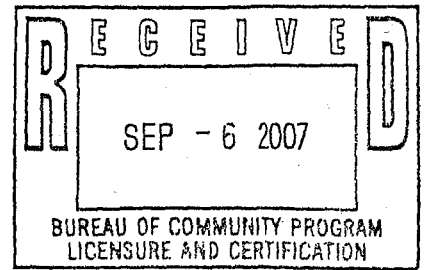
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2007 SEP 13 AM 8:54

August 29, 2007

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION
Janice Staloski, Director
Pennsylvania Department of Health
Bureau of Community Program Licensure and Certification
132 Kline Plaza
Suite A
Harrisburg, PA 17104-1579



Dear Ms. Staloski:

UPMC Private Duty Services is supportive of the licensure of homecare agencies and registries. The purposed regulations will allow the elderly and disabled citizens in Pennsylvania to remain in their homes and ensure safe quality care.

After reviewing the current and final draft of the regulations I have several concerns.

The concerns are:

1. Child Abuse Clearance, section 611.53, states that all agency/registry employees have this clearance. I support the clearance for direct care workers and even office staff who have access to the child's personal and medical information. I do not support "all staff". Those employees who have no access to the child's record should not be required to have this clearance. There would be an expense to either the business or individual to obtain this clearance which is unnecessary.
2. Under section 611.56 (c) - I would like the Department to define "screening assessment". I believe a yearly screening of the mentioned communicable disease or conditions will place another expense on either the business or employee. Yearly screening for tuberculosis is adequate and does not have an large expense associated with it.
3. Retention of Records, section 611.32, requires records to be stored on site. Being part of a large health system our employee files are stored in one location not on site of each individual business unit. I would like to see the wording changed to, "reasonably accessible". This would be acceptable for agencies like mine.
4. Under section 611.57 it discusses that the information be provider to the consumer prior to commencement of services. In our business we can receive a call during the day for services to begin that evening. I believe the information can be given by phone but would take an additional time to obtain a signature. This could cause a delay in services. Some of these cases are being staffed by home care aides and I would not request them to obtain signatures. Allowing a window of 3-5 days would be appropriate to get the signature of the consumer, family or legal representative. In addition some of the families or legal representative may not even live in the state of Pennsylvania.

Thank you for taking the time to review my concerns.

Sincerely,

Claudia Sidley

Claudia Sidley, RN, BSN
Community Provider Services
UPMC Private Duty Services