

This document is a comment on the preliminary DRAFT final regulation. On June 24, 2009, the Department of Public Welfare provided a DRAFT final regulation for public review and comment. The DRAFT final can be found at : <http://www.irrc.state.pa.us/Documents/SRCDocuments/Regulations/2712/AGENCY/Document-12700.pdf>.

This is an informal process. The Department will consider these comments in preparation of a formal final regulation to be submitted at a later date.



# PRESBYTERIAN VILLAGE AT HOLLIDAYSBURG

a PRESBYTERIAN SENIOR LIVING community

RECEIVED

JUL 20 2009

2712

July 20, 2009

Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
333 Market Street, 14th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

As a Personal Care Administrator in Hollidaysburg, I have some serious concerns regarding the impact of the proposed Assisted Living Regulations on my facility and the residents I serve. While I support the concept of aging in place and allowing our residents to make choices regarding the services they receive, the proposed regulations would impose such a financial burden on our facility that we may not be able to continue to serve residents needing this level of care.

The proposed regulations and changes from the previous version continue to impose significant new costs on homes and residents. The proposed changes would not improve the health or safety of the residents, but would instead focus on the construction of physical plant amenities and duplicate administrative documentation that have little to no bearing on the care provided to the resident, and which are likely to make the assisted living level of care too costly for many Pennsylvanians to afford.

Presbyterian Village currently provides care and services to 43 residents with approximately 23% of them requiring us to subsidize a portion of their monthly fee because they do not have the income to pay the full rate. I am concerned that we will not be able to provide the level of subsidy we are able to provide today because of our dramatically increased costs.

Some specific concerns are:

1. Licensure Fees – The newly proposed \$300 initial application fee coupled with the per bed fee of \$75 still results in a significant burden on our facility. Our facility with 43 beds would be required to pay \$300 plus \$3225 just to apply for a license. Those vital dollars would be diverted away from resident care just to meet the licensure fee. While I believe the licensure fee is necessary it should not be a burden on facilities or take away from resident care.

2. The proposed square footage requirement of 175 per living unit for existing facilities and 250 per living unit for newly constructed facilities are still excessive and will place us at a disadvantage if they are implemented. The cost to bring our units into compliance would be prohibitive.
3. An RN is not a clinical necessity in the completion of an assessment or in the development of a Support Plan. This mandate simply increases the cost of delivering care.
4. It is inappropriate for the Department to have the authority to approve or disapprove the Assisted Living Residence's resident .
5. The facility must be permitted to maintain control over the transfer and discharge of its residents to ensure that residents are being appropriately care for. The proposed regulation curtails that power.
6. The Department's proposed standard of 40 hours per week will make it virtually impossible for administrators to meet the proposed continuing education requirements and other off-site obligations as may be necessary to ensure the residents receive quality care and programming.
7. The requirement for a nurse on-call essentially requires a facility to have a nurse employed 24 hours per day. This just becomes one more cost that will reduce our ability to provide quality care to lower income seniors.

While I have listed only a few of my concerns, I am worried that these regulations have exceeded the scope of the legislation and will severely limit seniors' access to assisted living. I feel that our community will be negatively impacted by these regulations. Our occupancy is consistently above 90% and we serve both a private pay and charitable market. We provide subsidized care to over 23% of our population. It is the care and services we provide that enhances the lives of our residents, not arbitrary building requirements.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Nancy Dickson  
Assisted Living Manager  
Presbyterian Village Hollidaysburg