

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Department of Children and Family Services
NOTICE OF RULE WAIVER/MODIFICATION/SUSPENSION
PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 103 (MURPHY)(MARCH 9, 2020)
COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY

Temporary Rule Modification adopted by Christine Norbut Beyer, Commissioner Department of Children and Families

Date: April 17, 2020

Authority: N.J.S.A. App.A.9-45 & App. A:9-47; Executive Order No. 103 (Murphy)(“EO 103”)

Effective Date: April 16, 2020

Expiration Date: Concurrent with expiration of EO 103

This is an emergency adoption of a temporary rule modification of the Department’s Division on Women rules as outlined below. Section 6 of EO 103, issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, authorizes agency heads to waive/suspend/modify any existing rule, where the enforcement of the rule would be detrimental to the public welfare during the emergency, notwithstanding the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act or any law to the contrary. Pursuant to that authority, and with the approval of the Governor and in consultation with the State Director of Emergency Management and the Commissioner of the Department of Health, the Department of Children and Families is modifying certain rules as follows:

In order to facilitate social distancing and other virus mitigation strategies in the administration of the Address Confidentiality Program, the requirement for the inclusion of an applicant signature in N.J.A.C. 3A:71-3.1(b)(1)(x) and (b)(2)(iii) are modified. The verbal agreement of the applicant, documented by the agency representative completing the application, shall suffice for this purpose.

The text of the regulation is modified as follows, with insertions indicated in **bold** print:

§ 3A:71-3.1 Requirements for participation in ACP

- (a) All applicants for participation in ACP must be 18 years of age or over, an emancipated minor, a parent or guardian acting on behalf of a minor, or a guardian acting on behalf of an incapacitated person.
- (b) All applicants shall complete a standard application form and an authorization form, which may be obtained from a local domestic violence program.

Information about how to contact the local domestic violence programs can be obtained by contacting the New Jersey Address Confidentiality Program at 1-877-218-9133.

1. The standard application form shall require the provision of the following:
 - i. –ix. No change.
 - x. The applicant's signature **or documentation that the applicant verbally consented to the application in lieu of a signature**; and
 - xi. No change.
2. The authorization card form shall require the provision of the following:
 - i.-ii No change.
 - iii. The applicant's signature **or documentation that the applicant verbally consented to the application in lieu of a signature**; and
 - iv. No change.
3. No change.

I find that waiver/suspension/modification of the rules above is necessary because enforcement of the existing rules would be detrimental to the public welfare during this emergency.

April 17, 2020

Date



Christine Norbut Beyer, M.S.W.

Commissioner