

State of New Jersey
Department of Human Services



The Central Registry of Offenders Against
Individuals with Developmental Disabilities
N.J.A.C. 10:44D
Provider letter

October 27, 2010

Dear Provider:

In April 2010, Governor Chris Christie signed landmark legislation, establishing a Central Registry of Offenders Against Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (Central Registry) within the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS).

This important law, N.J.S.A. 30:6D-73 et seq., takes effect October 27, 2010. It is designed to prevent caregivers who are offenders against individuals with developmental disabilities from continuing to work in the DD Community. The law protects the safety and well-being of individuals with developmental disabilities receiving care or services from:

- § Facilities or programs licensed, contracted or regulated by DHS;
- § State-operated programs; and
- § State-funded, community-based providers.

Upon placement on the Central Registry, agencies are required to ensure that the offender ceases all contact with persons with developmental disabilities for whom they directly or indirectly receive state funding, except immediate family members. Agencies under contract, regulated or licensed by DHS are required to ensure full compliance with the provisions of the law.

For your reference, a Fact Sheet and accompanying poster regarding the DHS Central Registry is attached. Review and consideration of these documents among agency staff is encouraged.

The Central Registry law specifies the need for all employees and volunteers in a program, facility, community care residence or living arrangement licensed or funded by DHS, or a person providing community-based services with indirect state funding to a person with a developmental disability to report all allegations of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Please be aware that the DHS policy requiring agencies to report allegations through the Unusual Incident Management System (UIRMS) remains in effect and satisfies the provision to report under the Central Registry law. An 800 number has been created to facilitate reporting by other entities. That number is 1-800-832-9173. Agencies should continue to follow the DHS reporting policy by using the UIRMS system.

DHS staff is in the process of finalizing operations for the new Central Registry, including the creation of a web-based system to confidentially maintain the names of paid caregivers and volunteers determined through a DHS investigation to have abused, neglected or exploited an individual with a developmental disability. Provider agencies are required to check the names of current and prospective employees and volunteers against the new Central Registry at the following identified timeframes:

- § Prior to each new hire of a caregiver, including employees, volunteers, alternates and respite providers;
- § Annually for all employees, volunteers, alternates and respite providers; and
- § Each time a new name is added to the Central Registry, DHS will send an email advisory alert. The Central Registry should be re-checked by all employers at that time.

You will receive additional information regarding this new process in the coming weeks. In the interim, please take this time to familiarize your staff with the provisions of the Central Registry law and proposed regulations.

This important and significant initiative will ensure the protection and well-being of our most vulnerable clients. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation with and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Velez", written in a cursive style.

Jennifer Velez
Commissioner

Attachments (2)