

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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March 23, 2020

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVE 02-032320: VISITS TO LICENSED RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES

Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code section 4639.6 authorizes the Director of the Department of Developmental Services (Department) to issue directives to regional centers as the Director deems necessary to protect consumer rights, health, safety, or welfare, or in accordance with W&I Code section 4434. Regional centers must comply with any directive issued by the Director pursuant to this section.

Pursuant to W&I Code section 4639.6, to limit the risk of exposure and spread of COVID-19, the Director of the Department is directing regional centers to take immediate action to advise facilities and consumers, families or authorized representatives of consumers residing in any licensed residential facility that effective immediately, visits shall be limited to individuals who need entry, as necessary for prevention, containment, and mitigation of COVID-19, such as medical personnel, and government agencies responsible for protecting the health, safety, and welfare of consumers, including Department and regional center staff.

To the extent feasible, regional center staff should attempt to conduct monitoring visits using remote electronic communications, such as Skype, Facetime, video conference, and/or telephone conference. When in-person monitoring visits are necessary, staff should consider applying social distancing strategies such as observing the consumer from a distance or wearing personal protective equipment. Regional center staff should refer to the [Department's March 18, 2020, guidance](#) when conducting monitoring visits.

Facilities shall make reasonable efforts to offer families the option to visit through use of remote electronic communications.

If you have questions regarding this Directive, please contact Brian Winfield at (916) 654-1569 or brian.winfield@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

NANCY BARGMANN
Director

cc: Regional Center Board Presidents
Regional Center Administrators
Regional Center Directors of Consumer Services
Regional Center Community Services Directors
Association of Regional Center Agencies

“Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices”