

CHAPTER 245A

HUMAN SERVICES LICENSING

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245A.01 CITATION.

Sections 245A.01 to 245A.16 may be cited as the "human services licensing act."

History: 1987 c 333 s 1

245A.02 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** The terms used in sections 245A.01 to 245A.16 have the meanings given them in this section.

Subd. 2. **Adult.** "Adult" means a person who is 18 years old or older and who:

- (1) has mental illness, mental retardation or a related condition, a physical handicap, or a functional impairment; or
- (2) is chemically dependent or abuses chemicals.

Subd. 3. **Applicant.** "Applicant" means an individual, corporation, partnership, voluntary association, controlling individual, or other organization that has applied for licensure under sections 245A.01 to 245A.16 and the rules of the commissioner.

Subd. 4. **Child.** "Child" means a person who has not reached age 18.

Subd. 5. **Commissioner.** "Commissioner" means the commissioner of human services or the commissioner's designated representative including county agencies and private agencies.

Subd. 5a. **Controlling individual.** "Controlling individual" means a public body, governmental agency, business entity, officer, program administrator, or director whose responsibilities include the direction of the management or policies of a program. Controlling individual also means an individual who, directly or indirectly, beneficially owns an interest in a corporation, partnership, or other business association that is a controlling individual. Controlling individual does not include:

(1) a bank, savings bank, trust company, building and loan association, savings and loan association, credit union, industrial loan and thrift company, investment banking firm, or insurance company unless the entity operates a program directly or through a subsidiary;

(2) an individual who is a state or federal official, or state or federal employee, or a member or employee of the governing body of a political subdivision of the state or federal government that operates one or more programs, unless the individual is also an officer or director of the program, receives remuneration from the program, or owns any of the beneficial interests not excluded in this subdivision;

(3) an individual who owns less than five percent of the outstanding common shares of a corporation:

- (i) whose securities are exempt under section 80A.15, subdivision 1, clause (f); or
- (ii) whose transactions are exempt under section 80A.15, subdivision 2, clause (b);

or

(4) an individual who is a member of an organization exempt from taxation under section 290.05, unless the individual is also an officer or director of the program or owns any of the beneficial interests not excluded in this subdivision. This clause does not exclude from the definition of controlling individual an organization that is exempt from taxation.

Subd. 6. County agency. "County agency" means the agency designated by the county board of commissioners, human service boards, county welfare boards or multi-county welfare boards, or departments where those have been established under the law.

Subd. 6a. Drop-in child care program. "Drop-in child care program" means a non-residential program of child care in which children participate on a one-time only or occasional basis up to a maximum of 45 hours per child, per month. A drop-in child care program must be licensed under Minnesota Rules governing child care centers. A drop-in child care program must meet one of the following requirements to qualify for the rule exemptions specified in section 245A.14, subdivision 6:

(1) the drop-in child care program operates in a child care center which houses no child care program except the drop-in child care program;

(2) the drop-in child care program operates in the same child care center but not during the same hours as a regularly scheduled ongoing child care program with a stable enrollment; or

(3) the drop-in child care program operates in a child care center at the same time as a regularly scheduled ongoing child care program with a stable enrollment but the program's activities, except for bathroom use and outdoor play, are conducted separately from each other.

Subd. 7. Functional impairment. For the purposes of adult day care or adult foster care, "functional impairment" means:

(1) a condition that is characterized by substantial difficulty in carrying out one or more of the essential major activities of daily living, such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, working; or

(2) a disorder of thought or mood that significantly impairs judgment, behavior, capacity to recognize reality, or ability to cope with the ordinary demands of life and that requires support to maintain independence in the community.

Subd. 8. License. "License" means a certificate issued by the commissioner authorizing the license holder to provide a specified program for a specified period of time and in accordance with the terms of the license and the rules of the commissioner.

Subd. 9. License holder. "License holder" means an individual, corporation, partnership, voluntary association, or other organization that is legally responsible for the operation of the program, has been granted a license by the commissioner under sections 245A.01 to 245A.16 and the rules of the commissioner, and is a controlling individual.

Subd. 10. Nonresidential program. "Nonresidential program" means care, supervision, rehabilitation, training or habilitation of a person provided outside the person's own home and provided for fewer than 24 hours a day, including adult day care programs; a nursing home that receives public funds to provide services for five or more persons whose primary diagnosis is mental retardation or a related condition or mental illness and who do not have a significant physical or medical problem that necessitates nursing home care; a nursing home or hospital that was licensed by the commissioner on July 1, 1987, to provide a program for persons with a physical handicap that is not the result of the normal aging process and considered to be a chronic condition; and chemical dependency or chemical abuse programs that are located in a nursing home or hospital and receive public funds for providing chemical abuse or chemical dependency treatment services under chapter 254B. Nonresidential programs include home and community-based services and semi-independent living services for persons with mental retardation or a related condition that are provided in or outside of a person's own home.

Subd. 11. **Person.** "Person" means a child or adult as defined in subdivisions 2 and 4.

Subd. 12. **Private agency.** "Private agency" means an individual, corporation, partnership, voluntary association or other organization, other than a county agency, or a court with jurisdiction, that places persons who cannot remain in their own homes in residential programs, foster care, or adoptive homes.

Subd. 13. **Individual who is related.** "Individual who is related" means a spouse, a parent, a natural or adopted child or stepchild, a stepparent, a stepbrother, a stepsister, a niece, a nephew, an adoptive parent, a grandparent, a sibling, an aunt, an uncle, or a legal guardian.

Subd. 14. **Residential program.** "Residential program" means a program that provides 24-hour-a-day care, supervision, food, lodging, rehabilitation, training, education, habilitation, or treatment outside a person's own home, including a nursing home or hospital that receives public funds, administered by the commissioner, to provide services for five or more persons whose primary diagnosis is mental retardation or a related condition or mental illness and who do not have a significant physical or medical problem that necessitates nursing home care; a program in an intermediate care facility for four or more persons with mental retardation or a related condition; a nursing home or hospital that was licensed by the commissioner on July 1, 1987, to provide a program for persons with a physical handicap that is not the result of the normal aging process and considered to be a chronic condition; and chemical dependency or chemical abuse programs that are located in a hospital or nursing home and receive public funds for providing chemical abuse or chemical dependency treatment services under chapter 254B. Residential programs include home and community-based services and semi-independent living services for persons with mental retardation or a related condition that are provided in or outside of a person's own home.

History: 1987 c 333 s 2; 1988 c 411 s 1; 1989 c 282 art 2 s 60-65; 1990 c 568 art 2 s 40

245A.03 WHO MUST BE LICENSED.

Subdivision 1. **License required.** Unless licensed by the commissioner, an individual, corporation, partnership, voluntary association, other organization, or controlling individual must not:

- (1) operate a residential or a nonresidential program;
- (2) receive a child or adult for care, supervision, or placement in foster care or adoption;
- (3) help plan the placement of a child or adult in foster care or adoption; or
- (4) advertise a residential or nonresidential program.

Subd. 2. **Exclusion from licensure.** Sections 245A.01 to 245A.16 do not apply to:

- (1) residential or nonresidential programs that are provided to a person by an individual who is related;
- (2) nonresidential programs that are provided by an unrelated individual to persons from a single related family;
- (3) residential or nonresidential programs that are provided to adults who do not abuse chemicals or who do not have a chemical dependency, a mental illness, mental retardation or a related condition, a functional impairment, or a physical handicap;
- (4) sheltered workshops or work activity programs that are certified by the commissioner of jobs and training;
- (5) programs for children enrolled in kindergarten to the 12th grade and pre-kindergarten special education programs that are operated by the commissioner of education or a school as defined in section 120.101, subdivision 4;
- (6) nonresidential programs for children that provide care or supervision for periods of less than three hours a day while the child's parent or legal guardian is in the same building or present on property that is contiguous with the physical facility where the nonresidential program is provided;

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(7) nursing homes or hospitals licensed by the commissioner of health except as specified under section 245A.02;

(8) board and lodge facilities licensed by the commissioner of health that provide services for five or more persons whose primary diagnosis is mental illness who have refused an appropriate residential program offered by a county agency. This exclusion expires on July 1, 1990;

(9) homes providing programs for persons placed there by a licensed agency for legal adoption, unless the adoption is not completed within two years;

(10) programs licensed by the commissioner of corrections;

(11) recreation programs for children or adults that operate for fewer than 40 calendar days in a calendar year;

(12) programs whose primary purpose is to provide social or recreational activities for adults or school-age children, such as scouting, boys clubs, girls clubs, sports, or the arts; except that a program operating in a school building is not excluded unless it is approved by the district's school board;

(13) head start nonresidential programs which operate for less than 31 days in each calendar year;

(14) noncertified boarding care homes unless they provide services for five or more persons whose primary diagnosis is mental illness or mental retardation;

(15) nonresidential programs for nonhandicapped children provided for a cumulative total of less than 30 days in any 12-month period;

(16) residential programs for persons with mental illness, that are located in hospitals, until the commissioner adopts appropriate rules;

(17) the religious instruction of school-age children; Sabbath or Sunday schools; or the congregate care of children by a church, congregation, or religious society during the period used by the church, congregation, or religious society for its regular worship;

(18) camps licensed by the commissioner of health under Minnesota Rules, chapter 4630;

(19) mental health outpatient services for adults with mental illness or children with emotional disturbance; or

(20) residential programs serving school-age children whose sole purpose is cultural or educational exchange, until the commissioner adopts appropriate rules.

Subd. 3. Unlicensed programs. (a) It is a misdemeanor for an individual, corporation, partnership, voluntary association, other organization, or a controlling individual to provide a residential or nonresidential program without a license and in willful disregard of sections 245A.01 to 245A.16 unless the program is excluded from licensure under subdivision 2.

(b) If, after receiving notice that a license is required, the individual, corporation, partnership, voluntary association, other organization, or controlling individual has failed to apply for a license, the commissioner may ask the appropriate county attorney or the attorney general to begin proceedings to secure a court order against the continued operation of the program. The county attorney and the attorney general have a duty to cooperate with the commissioner.

History: 1987 c 333 s 3; 1988 c 411 s 2; 1989 c 282 art 2 s 66-68; 1990 c 568 art 2 s 41

245A.04 APPLICATION PROCEDURES.

Subdivision 1. Application for licensure. (a) An individual, corporation, partnership, voluntary association, other organization or controlling individual that is subject to licensure under section 245A.03 must apply for a license. The application must be made on the forms and in the manner prescribed by the commissioner. The commissioner shall provide the applicant with instruction in completing the application and provide information about the rules and requirements of other state agencies that affect the applicant.

The commissioner shall act on the application within 90 working days after a complete application and any required reports have been received from other state agencies or departments, counties, municipalities, or other political subdivisions.

(b) An application for licensure must specify one or more controlling individuals as an agent who is responsible for dealing with the commissioner of human services on all matters provided for in this chapter and on whom service of all notices and orders must be made. The agent must be authorized to accept service on behalf of all of the controlling individuals of the program. Service on the agent is service on all of the controlling individuals of the program. It is not a defense to any action arising under this chapter that service was not made on each controlling individual of the program. The designation of one or more controlling individuals as agents under this paragraph does not affect the legal responsibility of any other controlling individual under this chapter.

Subd. 2. Notification of affected municipality. The commissioner must not issue a license without giving 30 calendar days' written notice to the affected municipality or other political subdivision unless the program is considered a permitted single-family residential use under sections 245A.11 and 245A.14. The notification must be given before the first issuance of a license and annually after that time if annual notification is requested in writing by the affected municipality or other political subdivision. State funds must not be made available to or be spent by an agency or department of state, county, or municipal government for payment to a residential or nonresidential program licensed under sections 245A.01 to 245A.16 until the provisions of this subdivision have been complied with in full. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to programs located in hospitals.

Subd. 3. Study of the applicant. (a) Before the commissioner issues a license, the commissioner shall conduct a study of the individuals specified in clauses (1) to (4) according to rules of the commissioner. The applicant, license holder, the bureau of criminal apprehension, and county agencies, after written notice to the individual who is the subject of the study, shall help with the study by giving the commissioner criminal conviction data and reports about abuse or neglect of adults in licensed programs substantiated under section 626.557 and the maltreatment of minors in licensed programs substantiated under section 626.556. The individuals to be studied shall include:

- (1) the applicant;
- (2) persons over the age of 13 living in the household where the licensed program will be provided;
- (3) current employees or contractors of the applicant who will have direct contact with persons served by the program; and
- (4) volunteers who have direct contact with persons served by the program to provide program services, if the contact is not directly supervised by the individuals listed in clause (1) or (3).

The juvenile courts shall also help with the study by giving the commissioner existing juvenile court records on individuals described in clause (2) relating to delinquency proceedings held within either the five years immediately preceding the application or the five years immediately preceding the individual's 18th birthday, whichever time period is longer. The commissioner shall destroy juvenile records obtained pursuant to this subdivision when the subject of the records reaches age 23.

For purposes of this subdivision, "direct contact" means providing face-to-face care, training, supervision, counseling, consultation, or medication assistance to persons served by a program. For purposes of this subdivision, "directly supervised" means an individual listed in clause (1) or (3) is within sight or hearing of a volunteer to the extent that the individual listed in clause (1) or (3) is capable at all times of intervening to protect the health and safety of the persons served by the program who have direct contact with the volunteer.

A study of an individual in clauses (1) to (4) shall be conducted on at least an annual basis. No applicant, license holder, or individual who is the subject of the study shall pay any fees required to conduct the study.

(b) The individual who is the subject of the study must provide the applicant or license holder with sufficient information to ensure an accurate study including the individual's first, middle, and last name; home address, city, county, and state of residence; zip code; sex; date of birth; and driver's license number. The applicant or license holder shall provide this information about an individual in paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (4), on forms prescribed by the commissioner. The commissioner may request additional information of the individual, which shall be optional for the individual to provide, such as the individual's social security number or race.

(c) A study must include information from the county agency's record of substantiated abuse or neglect of adults in licensed programs, and the maltreatment of minors in licensed programs, and information from the bureau of criminal apprehension.

The commissioner may also review arrest and investigative information from the bureau of criminal apprehension, a county attorney, county sheriff, county agency, local chief of police, other states, the courts, or a national criminal record repository if the commissioner has reasonable cause to believe the information is pertinent to the disqualification of an individual listed in paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (4).

(d) An applicant's or license holder's failure or refusal to cooperate with the commissioner is reasonable cause to deny an application or immediately suspend, suspend, or revoke a license. Failure or refusal of an individual to cooperate with the study is just cause for denying or terminating employment of the individual if the individual's failure or refusal to cooperate could cause the applicant's application to be denied or the license holder's license to be immediately suspended, suspended, or revoked.

(e) The commissioner shall not consider an application to be complete until all of the information required to be provided under this subdivision has been received.

(f) No person in paragraph (a), clause (1), (2), (3), or (4) who is disqualified as a result of this act may be retained by the agency in a position involving direct contact with persons served by the program.

(g) The commissioner shall not implement the procedures contained in this subdivision until appropriate rules have been adopted, except for the applicants and license holders for child foster care, adult foster care, and family day care homes.

(h) Termination of persons in paragraph (a), clause (1), (2), (3), or (4) made in good faith reliance on a notice of disqualification provided by the commissioner shall not subject the applicant or license holder to civil liability.

(i) The commissioner may establish records to fulfill the requirements of this section. The information contained in the records is only available to the commissioner for the purpose authorized in this section.

Subd. 3a. Notification to subject of study results. The commissioner shall notify the applicant or license holder and the individual who is the subject of the study, in writing, of the results of the study. When the study is completed, a notice that the study was undertaken and completed shall be maintained in the personnel files of the program.

The commissioner shall notify the individual studied if the information in the study indicates the individual is disqualified from direct contact with persons served by the program. The commissioner shall disclose the information to the individual studied. An applicant or license holder who is not the subject of the study shall be informed that the commissioner has found information that disqualifies the subject from direct contact with persons served by the program. However, the applicant or license holder shall not be told what that information is unless the data practices act provides for release of the information and the individual studied authorizes the release of the information.

Subd. 3b. Reconsideration of disqualification. (a) Within 30 days after receiving notice of disqualification under subdivision 3a, the individual who is the subject of the study may request reconsideration of the notice of disqualification. The individual must submit the request for reconsideration to the commissioner in writing. The individual must present information to show that:

- (1) the information the commissioner relied upon is incorrect; or

(2) the subject of the study does not pose a risk of harm to any person served by the applicant or license holder.

(b) The commissioner may set aside the disqualification if the commissioner finds that the information the commissioner relied upon is incorrect or the individual does not pose a risk of harm to any person served by the applicant or license holder. The commissioner shall review the consequences of the event or events that could lead to disqualification, the vulnerability of the victim at the time of the event, the time elapsed without a repeat of the same or similar event, and documentation of successful completion by the individual studied of training or rehabilitation pertinent to the event.

(c) The commissioner shall respond in writing to all reconsideration requests within 15 working days after receiving the request for reconsideration. If the disqualification is set aside, the commissioner shall notify the applicant or license holder in writing of the decision.

(d) Except as provided in subdivision 3c, the commissioner's decision to grant or deny a reconsideration of disqualification under this subdivision, or to set aside or uphold the results of the study under subdivision 3, is the final administrative agency action.

Subd. 3c. Contested case. If a disqualification is not set aside, a person who, on or after the effective date of rules adopted under subdivision 3, paragraph (i), is an employee of an employer, as defined in section 179A.03, subdivision 15, may request a contested case hearing under chapter 14. Rules adopted under this chapter may not preclude an employee in a contested case hearing for disqualification from submitting evidence concerning information gathered under subdivision 3, paragraph (e).

Subd. 4. Inspections; waiver. (a) Before issuing a license, the commissioner shall conduct an inspection of the program. The inspection must include but is not limited to:

- (1) an inspection of the physical plant;
- (2) an inspection of records and documents;
- (3) an evaluation of the program by consumers of the program; and
- (4) observation of the program in operation.

For the purposes of this subdivision, "consumer" means a person who receives the services of a licensed program, the person's legal guardian, or the parent or individual having legal custody of a child who receives the services of a licensed program.

(b) The evaluation required in paragraph (a), clause (3) or the observation in paragraph (a), clause (4) is not required prior to issuing a provisional license under subdivision 7. If the commissioner issues a provisional license under subdivision 7, these requirements must be completed within one year after the issuance of a provisional license. The observation in paragraph (a), clause (4) is not required if the commissioner determines that the observation would hinder the persons receiving services in benefiting from the program.

Subd. 5. Commissioner's right of access. When the commissioner is exercising the powers conferred by sections 245A.01 to 245A.15, the commissioner must be given access to the physical plant and grounds where the program is provided, documents, persons served by the program, and staff whenever the program is in operation and the information is relevant to inspections or investigations conducted by the commissioner. The commissioner must be given access without prior notice and as often as the commissioner considers necessary if the commissioner is conducting an investigation of allegations of abuse, neglect, maltreatment, or other violation of applicable laws or rules. In conducting inspections, the commissioner may request and shall receive assistance from other state, county, and municipal governmental agencies and departments. The applicant or license holder shall allow the commissioner to photocopy, photograph, and make audio and video tape recordings during the inspection of the program at the commissioner's expense. The commissioner shall obtain a court order or the consent of the subject of the records or the parents or legal guardian of the subject before photocopying hospital medical records.

Persons served by the program have the right to refuse to consent to be interviewed, photographed, or audio or videotaped. Failure or refusal of an applicant or license holder to fully comply with this subdivision is reasonable cause for the commissioner to deny the application or immediately suspend or revoke the license.

Subd. 6. Commissioner's evaluation. Before granting, suspending, revoking, or making probationary a license, the commissioner shall evaluate information gathered under this section. The commissioner's evaluation shall consider facts, conditions, or circumstances concerning the program's operation, the well-being of persons served by the program, consumer evaluations of the program, and information about the character and qualifications of the personnel employed by the applicant or license holder.

The commissioner shall evaluate the results of the study required in subdivision 3 and determine whether a risk of harm to the persons served by the program exists. In conducting this evaluation, the commissioner shall apply the disqualification standards set forth in rules adopted under this chapter. If any rule currently does not include these disqualification standards, the commissioner shall apply the standards in section 364.03, subdivision 3, until the rule is revised to include disqualification standards. The commissioner shall revise all rules authorized by this chapter to include disqualification standards. Prior to the adoption of rules establishing disqualification standards, the commissioner shall forward the proposed rules to the commissioner of human rights for review and recommendation concerning the protection of individual rights. The recommendation of the commissioner of human rights is not binding on the commissioner of human services. The provisions of chapter 364 do not apply to applicants or license holders governed by sections 245A.01 to 245A.16 except as provided in this subdivision.

Subd. 7. Issuance of a license; provisional license. (a) If the commissioner determines that the program complies with all applicable rules and laws, the commissioner shall issue a license. At minimum, the license shall state:

- (1) the name of the license holder;
- (2) the address of the program;
- (3) the effective date and expiration date of the license;
- (4) the type of license;
- (5) the maximum number and ages of persons that may receive services from the program; and
- (6) any special conditions of licensure.

(b) The commissioner may issue a provisional license for a period not to exceed one year if:

- (1) the commissioner is unable to conduct the evaluation or observation required by subdivision 4, paragraph (a), clauses (3) and (4), because the program is not yet operational;
- (2) certain records and documents are not available because persons are not yet receiving services from the program; and
- (3) the applicant complies with applicable laws and rules in all other respects.

A provisional license must not be issued except at the time that a license is first issued to an applicant.

A license shall not be transferable to another individual, corporation, partnership, voluntary association, other organization, or controlling individual, or to another location. All licenses expire at 12:01 a.m. on the day after the expiration date stated on the license. A license holder must apply for and be granted a new license to operate the program or the program must not be operated after the expiration date.

Subd. 8. Hospital inspections. Licensing authority granted under this section shall not modify the presumption regarding routine hospital inspections under section 144.55, subdivision 4.

Subd. 9. Variances. The commissioner may grant variances to rules that do not affect the health or safety of persons in a licensed program if the following conditions are met:

(1) the variance must be requested by an applicant or license holder on a form and in a manner prescribed by the commissioner;

(2) the request for a variance must include the reasons that the applicant or license holder cannot comply with a requirement as stated in the rule and the alternative equivalent measures that the applicant or license holder will follow to comply with the intent of the rule; and

(3) the request must state the period of time for which the variance is requested.

The commissioner's decision to grant or deny a variance request is final and not subject to appeal under the provisions of chapter 14.

History: 1987 c 333 s 4; 1988 c 411 s 3,4; 1988 c 608 s 2; 1989 c 282 art 2 s 69-76; 1990 c 542 s 7; 1990 c 568 art 2 s 42-44

245A.05 DENIAL OF APPLICATION.

An applicant whose application has been denied by the commissioner must be given notice of the denial. Notice must be given by certified mail. The notice must state the reasons the application was denied and must inform the applicant of the right to a contested case hearing under chapter 14. The applicant may appeal the denial by notifying the commissioner in writing by certified mail within 20 calendar days after receiving notice that the application was denied. Section 245A.08 applies to hearings held to appeal the commissioner's denial of an application.

History: 1987 c 333 s 5

245A.06 CORRECTION ORDER AND FINES.

Subdivision 1. Contents of correction orders. (a) If the commissioner finds that the applicant or license holder has failed to comply with an applicable law or rule and this failure does not imminently endanger the health, safety, or rights of the persons served by the program, the commissioner may issue a correction order to the applicant or license holder. The correction order must state:

- (1) the conditions that constitute a violation of the law or rule;
- (2) the specific law or rule violated; and
- (3) the time allowed to correct each violation.

(b) Nothing in this section prohibits the commissioner from proposing a sanction as specified in section 245A.07, prior to issuing a correction order or fine.

Subd. 2. Reconsideration of correction orders. If the applicant or license holder believes that the contents of the commissioner's correction order are in error, the applicant or license holder may ask the department of human services to reconsider the parts of the correction order that are alleged to be in error. The request for reconsideration must be in writing, delivered by certified mail, and:

- (1) specify the parts of the correction order that are alleged to be in error;
- (2) explain why they are in error; and
- (3) include documentation to support the allegation of error.

A request for reconsideration does not stay any provisions or requirements of the correction order. The commissioner shall respond to requests made under this subdivision within 15 working days after receipt of the request for reconsideration. The commissioner's disposition of a request for reconsideration is final and not subject to appeal under chapter 14.

Subd. 3. Failure to comply. If upon reinspection, the commissioner finds that the applicant or license holder has not corrected the violations specified in the correction order, the commissioner may order a fine. This section does not prohibit the commissioner from seeking a court order, denying an application, or suspending, revoking, or making probationary the license in addition to ordering a fine.

Subd. 4. Notice of fine; appeal. A license holder who is ordered to pay a fine must be notified of the order by certified mail. The notice must be mailed to the address

shown on the application or the last known address of the license holder. The notice must state the reasons the fine was ordered and must inform the license holder of the right to a contested case hearing under chapter 14. The license holder may appeal the order to forfeit a fine by notifying the commissioner by certified mail within 15 calendar days after receiving the order. A timely appeal shall stay forfeiture of the fine until the commissioner issues a final order under section 245A.08, subdivision 5.

Subd. 5. Forfeiture of fines. The license holder shall pay the fines assessed on or before the payment date specified in the commissioner's order. If the license holder fails to fully comply with the order, the commissioner shall suspend the license until the license holder complies. If the license holder receives state funds, the state, county, or municipal agencies or departments responsible for administering the funds shall withhold payments and recover any payments made while the license is suspended for failure to pay a fine.

Subd. 5a. Accrual of fines. A license holder shall promptly notify the commissioner of human services, in writing, when a violation specified in an order to forfeit is corrected. A fine assessed for a violation shall stop accruing when the commissioner receives the written notice. The commissioner shall reinspect the program within three working days after receiving the notice. If upon reinspection the commissioner determines that a violation has not been corrected as indicated by the order to forfeit, accrual of the daily fine resumes on the date of reinspection and the amount of fines that otherwise would have accrued between the date the commissioner received the notice and date of the reinspection is added to the total assessment due from the license holder. The commissioner shall notify the license holder by certified mail that accrual of the fine has resumed. The license holder may challenge the resumption in a contested case under chapter 14 by written request within 15 days after receipt of the notice of resumption. Recovery of the resumed fine must be stayed if a controlling individual or a legal representative on behalf of the license holder makes a written request for a hearing. The request for hearing, however, may not stay accrual of the daily fine for violations that have not been corrected. The cost of reinspection conducted under this subdivision for uncorrected violations must be added to the total amount of accrued fines due from the license holder.

Subd. 6. Amount of fines. Until the commissioner adopts one or more schedules of fines, fines shall be assessed as follows:

(1) the license holder shall forfeit \$1,000 for each occurrence of violation of law or rule prohibiting the maltreatment of children or the abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable adults, including but not limited to corporal punishment, illegal or unauthorized use of physical, mechanical, or chemical restraints, and illegal or unauthorized use of aversive or deprivation procedures;

(2) the license holder shall forfeit \$200 for each occurrence of a violation of law or rule governing matters of health, safety, or supervision, including but not limited to the provision of adequate staff to child or adult ratios, except that the holder of a family or group family day care license shall forfeit \$100 for a violation under this clause; and

(3) the license holder shall forfeit \$100 for each occurrence of a violation of law or rule other than those included in clauses (1) and (2), except that the holder of a family or group family day care license shall forfeit \$50 for a violation under this clause.

For the purposes of this section, "occurrence" means each calendar day or part of a day that a violation continues to exist after the date set for correction in the commissioner's correction order.

History: 1987 c 333 s 6; 1989 c 282 art 2 s 77-79

245A.07 SANCTIONS.

Subdivision 1. Sanctions available. In addition to ordering forfeiture of fines, the commissioner may propose to suspend, revoke, or make probationary the license or secure an injunction against the continuing operation of the program of a license holder who does not comply with applicable law or rule. When applying sanctions authorized

under this section, the commissioner shall consider the nature, chronicity, or severity of the violation of law or rule and the effect of the violation on the health, safety, or rights of persons served by the program.

Subd. 2. Immediate suspension in cases of imminent danger to health, safety, or rights. If the license holder's failure to comply with applicable law or rule has placed the health, safety, or rights of persons served by the program in imminent danger, the commissioner shall act immediately to suspend the license. No state funds shall be made available or be expended by any agency or department of state, county, or municipal government for use by a license holder regulated under sections 245A.01 to 245A.16 while a license is under immediate suspension. A notice stating the reasons for the immediate suspension and informing the license holder of the right to a contested case hearing under chapter 14 must be delivered by personal service to the address shown on the application or the last known address of the license holder. The license holder may appeal an order immediately suspending a license by notifying the commissioner in writing by certified mail within five calendar days after receiving notice that the license has been immediately suspended. A license holder and any controlling individual shall discontinue operation of the program upon receipt of the commissioner's order to immediately suspend the license.

Subd. 3. Suspension, revocation, probation. The commissioner may suspend, revoke, or make probationary a license if a license holder fails to comply fully with applicable laws or rules. A license holder who has had a license suspended, revoked, or made probationary must be given notice of the action by certified mail. The notice must be mailed to the address shown on the application or the last known address of the license holder. The notice must state the reasons the license was suspended, revoked, or made probationary.

(a) If the license was suspended or revoked, the notice must inform the license holder of the right to a contested case hearing under chapter 14. The license holder may appeal an order suspending or revoking a license by notifying the commissioner in writing by certified mail within ten calendar days after receiving notice that the license has been suspended or revoked.

(b) If the license was made probationary, the notice must inform the license holder of the right to request a reconsideration by the commissioner. The request for reconsideration must be made in writing by certified mail within ten calendar days after receiving notice that the license has been made probationary. The license holder may submit with the request for reconsideration written argument or evidence in support of the request for reconsideration. The commissioner's disposition of a request for reconsideration is final and is not subject to appeal under chapter 14.

History: 1987 c 333 s 7; 1989 c 282 art 2 s 80; 1990 c 568 art 2 s 45

245A.08 HEARINGS.

Subdivision 1. Receipt of appeal; conduct of hearing. Upon receiving a timely appeal or petition pursuant to sections 245A.05 to 245A.07, the commissioner shall issue a notice of and order for hearing to the appellant under chapter 14.

Subd. 2. Conduct of hearings. At any hearing provided for by sections 245A.05 to 245A.07, the appellant may be represented by counsel and has the right to call, examine, and cross-examine witnesses. The administrative law judge may require the presence of witnesses and evidence by subpoena on behalf of any party.

Subd. 3. Burden of proof. (a) At a hearing regarding suspension, immediate suspension, or revocation of a license for family day care or foster care, the commissioner may demonstrate reasonable cause for action taken by submitting statements, reports, or affidavits to substantiate the allegations that the license holder failed to comply fully with applicable law or rule. If the commissioner demonstrates that reasonable cause existed, the burden of proof in hearings involving suspension, immediate suspension, or revocation of a family day care or foster care license shifts to the license holder to demonstrate by a preponderance of the evidence that the license holder was in full com-

pliance with those laws or rules that the commissioner alleges the license holder violated, at the time that the commissioner alleges the violations of law or rules occurred.

(b) At a hearing on denial of an application, the applicant bears the burden of proof to demonstrate by a preponderance of the evidence that the appellant has complied fully with sections 245A.01 to 245A.15 and other applicable law or rule and that the application should be approved and a license granted.

(c) At all other hearings under this section, the commissioner bears the burden of proof to demonstrate, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the violations of law or rule alleged by the commissioner occurred.

Subd. 4. Recommendation of administrative law judge. The administrative law judge shall recommend whether or not the commissioner's order should be affirmed. The recommendations must be consistent with sections 245A.01 to 245A.16 and the rules of the commissioner. The recommendations must be in writing and accompanied by findings of fact and conclusions and must be mailed to the parties by certified mail to their last known addresses as shown on the license or application.

Subd. 5. Notice of the commissioner's final order. After considering the findings of fact, conclusions, and recommendations of the administrative law judge, the commissioner shall issue a final order. The commissioner shall consider, but shall not be bound by, the recommendations of the administrative law judge. The appellant must be notified of the commissioner's final order as required by chapter 14. The notice must also contain information about the appellant's rights under chapter 14. The institution of proceedings for judicial review of the commissioner's final order shall not stay the enforcement of the final order except as provided in section 14.65. A license holder and each controlling individual of a license holder whose license has been revoked because of noncompliance with applicable law or rule must not be granted a license for five years following the revocation.

History: 1987 c 333 s 8; 1989 c 282 art 2 s 81; 1990 c 568 art 2 s 46

245A.09 RULES.

Subdivision 1. Commissioner's authority. The commissioner shall adopt rules under chapter 14 to govern the operation, maintenance, and licensure of programs subject to licensure under sections 245A.01 to 245A.16. The commissioner shall not adopt any rules that are inconsistent with or duplicative of existing state or federal regulations. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit the commissioner from incorporating existing state or federal regulations or accreditation standards by reference.

Subd. 2. Standards and regulatory methods. This subdivision applies to rules governing sections 245A.01 to 245A.16 that are adopted after July 1, 1987. As appropriate for each type of license:

(a) The commissioner shall give preference in rule to standards that describe program outcomes and the practices that have been shown to result in the desired program outcomes.

(b) The rules may include model program standards for each type of program licensed by the commissioner.

(c) The rules shall include basic licensing standards governing licensure of each type of program licensed by the commissioner. The basic licensing standards must be met by all applicants and license holders. Basic licensing standards must include, but are not limited to:

(1) standards for adequate staff that take into account the age distribution and severity of handicap of persons served by the program;

(2) safety standards that take into account the size and conditions of the physical plant and studies of fire safety including studies of the interaction between fire detection factors, fire spread factors, and evacuation factors in case of a fire;

(3) standards for program services that describe, when appropriate, adequate

levels of shelter, nutrition, planned activities, materials, and qualifications of individuals responsible for administering and delivering program services;

(4) standards that describe the characteristics of the settings where program services are to be delivered; and

(5) health and sanitation standards.

Subd. 3. Reduction of fees. The commissioner may adopt rules under subdivision 1 to provide for the reduction of fees established under section 245A.10 when a license holder substantially exceeds the basic standards for licensure.

Subd. 4. Evaluation of rules. For rules adopted under this section after July 1, 1987, the commissioner shall evaluate the effects of the rules within three years after the date of adoption and at least once every five years thereafter. The evaluation must include an assessment of any discrepancies between the actual and intended effects of the rules, identification of necessary revisions, if any, and a discussion of the rules' effect on the availability and quality of licensed programs. The commissioner shall consider the results of the evaluation in amending and writing rules.

Subd. 5. Other duties of the commissioner. For rules adopted after July 1, 1987, the commissioner shall:

(1) summarize the rules in language understandable to the general public and inform license holders and applicants where they may obtain a copy of the rules and the summary;

(2) develop and provide each applicant with information describing the services offered to applicants by the commissioner and explaining the penalties for operating an unlicensed program or failing to fully comply with the commissioner's correction orders or applicable laws or rules;

(3) upon request, interpret rules for applicants and license holders; and

(4) take measures to ensure that rules are enforced uniformly throughout the state.

Subd. 6. Consultation with affected parties. In developing rules, the commissioner shall request and receive consultation from: other state departments and agencies; counties and other affected political subdivisions that reflect the diversity of political subdivisions affected by the rule; persons and relatives of persons using the program governed by the rule; advocacy groups; and representatives of license holders affected by the rule. In choosing parties for consultation, the commissioner shall choose individuals and representatives of groups that reflect a cross section of urban, suburban, and rural areas of the state.

Subd. 7. Regulatory methods. (a) Where appropriate and feasible the commissioner shall identify and implement alternative methods of regulation and enforcement to the extent authorized in this subdivision. These methods shall include:

(1) expansion of the types and categories of licenses that may be granted;

(2) when the standards of an independent accreditation body have been shown to predict compliance with the rules, the commissioner shall consider compliance with the accreditation standards to be equivalent to partial compliance with the rules; and

(3) use of an abbreviated inspection that employs key standards that have been shown to predict full compliance with the rules.

If the commissioner determines that the methods in clause (2) or (3) can be used in licensing a program, the commissioner may reduce any fee set under section 245A.10 by up to 50 percent.

(b) The commissioner shall work with the commissioners of health, public safety, administration, and education in consolidating duplicative licensing and certification rules and standards if the commissioner determines that consolidation is administratively feasible, would significantly reduce the cost of licensing, and would not reduce the protection given to persons receiving services in licensed programs. Where administratively feasible and appropriate, the commissioner shall work with the commissioners of health, public safety, administration, and education in conducting joint agency inspections of programs.

(c) The commissioner shall work with the commissioners of health, public safety, administration, and education in establishing a single point of application for applicants who are required to obtain concurrent licensure from more than one of the commissioners listed in this clause.

(d) The commissioner may specify in rule periods of licensure up to two years.

History: 1987 c 333 s 9

245A.095 REVIEW OF RULES FOR PROGRAMS SERVING PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES.

Subdivision 1. License required. Residential programs with five or more persons with a mental illness must be licensed under sections 245A.01 to 245A.16. To assure that this requirement is met, the commissioner of health, in cooperation with the commissioner of human services, shall monitor licensed boarding care homes, board and lodging houses, and supervised living facilities.

By January 1, 1989, the commissioner of health shall recommend to the legislature an appropriate method for enforcing this requirement.

Subd. 1a. Rules. In developing rules for serving persons with mental illness, the commissioner of human services shall assure that persons with mental illness are provided with needed treatment or support in the least restrictive, most appropriate environment, that supportive residential care in small homelike settings is available for persons needing that care, and that a mechanism is developed to ensure that no person is placed in a care or treatment setting inappropriate for meeting the person's needs. To the maximum extent possible, the rule shall assure that length of stay is governed solely by client need and shall allow for a variety of innovative and flexible approaches in meeting residential and support needs of persons with mental illness.

Subd. 2. Specific review of rules. The commissioner shall:

(1) provide in rule for additional types of programs and services, including but not limited to supportive small group residential care, semi-independent and apartment living services, and crisis and respite services, to address the residential treatment and support needs of persons with mental illness;

(2) review category I and II programs established in Minnesota Rules, parts 9520.0500 to 9520.0690 to ensure that the categories of programs provide a continuum of residential service programs for persons with mental illness, including but not limited to programs meeting needs for intensive treatment, crisis and respite care, and rehabilitation and training;

(3) provide in rule for a definition of the term "treatment" as used in relation to persons with mental illness;

(4) adjust funding mechanisms by rule as needed to reflect the requirements established by rule for services being provided;

(5) review and recommend staff educational requirements and staff training as needed;

(6) review and make changes in rules relating to residential care and service programs for persons with mental illness as the commissioner may determine necessary; and

(7) the commissioner shall report to the legislature by February 15, 1990, on the status of rulemaking with respect to clauses (1) to (6).

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 4 s 64]

History: 1987 c 333 s 10; 1988 c 411 s 5; 1989 c 282 art 4 s 61

245A.10 FEES.

The commissioner shall charge a fee for evaluation of applications and inspection of programs, other than family day care and foster care, which are licensed under sections 245A.01 to 245A.16.

History: 1987 c 333 s 11

245A.11 SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS.

Subdivision 1. Policy statement. It is the policy of the state that persons shall not be excluded by municipal zoning ordinances or other land use regulations from the benefits of normal residential surroundings.

Subd. 2. Permitted single-family residential use. Residential programs with a licensed capacity of six or fewer persons shall be considered a permitted single-family residential use of property for the purposes of zoning and other land use regulations.

Subd. 3. Permitted multifamily residential use. Unless otherwise provided in any town, municipal, or county zoning regulation, a licensed residential program with a licensed capacity of seven to 16 adults or children shall be considered a permitted multifamily residential use of property for the purposes of zoning and other land use regulations. A town, municipal, or county zoning authority may require a conditional use or special use permit to assure proper maintenance and operation of a residential program. Conditions imposed on the residential program must not be more restrictive than those imposed on other conditional uses or special uses of residential property in the same zones, unless the additional conditions are necessary to protect the health and safety of the adults or children being served by the program. Nothing in sections 245A.01 to 245A.16 shall be construed to exclude or prohibit residential programs from single-family zones if otherwise permitted by local zoning regulations.

Subd. 4. Location of residential programs. In determining whether to grant a license, the commissioner shall specifically consider the population, size, land use plan, availability of community services, and the number and size of existing licensed residential programs in the town, municipality, or county in which the applicant seeks to operate a residential program. The commissioner shall not grant an initial license to any residential program if the residential program will be within 1,320 feet of an existing residential program unless one of the following conditions apply: (1) the existing residential program is located in a hospital licensed by the commissioner of health; or (2) the town, municipality, or county zoning authority grants the residential program a conditional use or special use permit. In cities of the first class, this subdivision applies even if a residential program is considered a permitted single-family residential use of property under subdivision 2. Foster care homes are exempt from this subdivision.

Subd. 5. Overconcentration and dispersal. (a) Before January 1, 1985, each county having two or more group residential programs within 1,320 feet of each other shall submit to the department of human services a plan to promote dispersal of group residential programs. In formulating its plan, the county shall solicit the participation of affected persons, programs, municipalities having highly concentrated residential program populations, and advocacy groups. For the purposes of this subdivision, "highly concentrated" means having a population in residential programs serving seven or more persons that exceeds one-half of one percent of the population of a recognized planning district or other administrative subdivision.

(b) Within 45 days after the county submits the plan, the commissioner shall certify whether the plan fulfills the purposes and requirements of this subdivision including the following requirements:

(1) a new program serving seven or more persons must not be located in any recognized planning district or other administrative subdivision where the population in residential programs is highly concentrated;

(2) the county plan must promote dispersal of highly concentrated residential program populations;

(3) the county plan shall promote the development of residential programs in areas that are not highly concentrated;

(4) no person in a residential program shall be displaced as a result of this section until a relocation plan has been implemented that provides for an acceptable alternative placement;

(5) if the plan provides for the relocation of residential programs, the relocation

must be completed by January 1, 1990. If the commissioner certifies that the plan does not do so, the commissioner shall state the reasons, and the county has 30 days to submit a plan amended to comply with the requirements of the commissioner.

(c) After July 1, 1985, the commissioner may reduce grants under section 245.73 to a county required to have an approved plan under paragraph (a) if the county does not have a plan approved by the commissioner or if the county acts in substantial disregard of its approved plan. The county board has the right to be provided with advance notice and to appeal the commissioner's decision. If the county requests a hearing within 30 days of the notification of intent to reduce grants, the commissioner shall not certify any reduction in grants until a hearing is conducted and a decision made in accordance with the contested case provisions of chapter 14.

Subd. 6. Hospitals; exemption. Residential programs located in hospitals shall be exempt from the provisions of this section.

History: 1987 c 333 s 12; 1988 c 411 s 6; 1990 c 568 art 2 s 47

245A.12 VOLUNTARY RECEIVERSHIP FOR RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS.

Subdivision 1. Definitions. For purposes of this section and section 245A.13, the following terms have the meanings given them.

(a) "Controlling individual" has the meaning in section 245A.02, subdivision 5a. When used in this section and section 245A.13, it means only those individuals controlling the residential program prior to the commencement of the receivership period.

(b) "Physical plant" means the building or buildings in which a residential program is located; all equipment affixed to the building and not easily subject to transfer as specified in the building and fixed equipment tables of the depreciation guidelines; and auxiliary buildings in the nature of sheds, garages, and storage buildings located on the same site if used for purposes related to resident care.

(c) "Related party" means a person who is a close relative of a provider or a provider group; an affiliate of a provider or a provider group; a close relative of an affiliate of a provider or provider group; or an affiliate of a close relative of an affiliate of a provider or provider group. For the purposes of this paragraph, the following terms have the meanings given them.

(1) "Affiliate" means a person that directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls, or is controlled by, or is under common control with another person.

(2) "Person" means an individual, a corporation, a partnership, an association, a trust, an unincorporated organization, or a government or political subdivision.

(3) "Close relative of an affiliate of a provider or provider group" means an individual whose relationship by blood, marriage, or adoption to an individual who is an affiliate to a provider or a provider group is no more remote than first cousin.

(4) "Control" includes the terms "controlling," "controlled by," and "under common control with" and means the possession, direct or indirect, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management, operations, or policies of a person, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract, or otherwise.

(5) "Provider or provider group" means the license holder or controlling individual prior to the effective date of the receivership.

Subd. 2. Receivership agreement. A majority of controlling individuals of a residential program may at any time ask the commissioner to assume operation of the residential program through appointment of a receiver. On receiving the request for a receiver, the commissioner may enter into an agreement with a majority of controlling individuals and become the receiver and operate the residential program under conditions acceptable to both the commissioner and the majority of controlling individuals. The agreement must specify the terms and conditions of the receivership and preserve the rights of the persons being served by the residential program. A receivership set up under this section terminates at the time specified by the parties to the agreement.

Subd. 3. Management agreement. When the commissioner agrees to become the receiver of a residential program, the commissioner may enter into a management agreement with another entity or group to act as the managing agent during the receivership period. The managing agent will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the residential program subject at all times to the review and approval of the commissioner. A reasonable fee may be paid to the managing agent for the performance of these services.

Subd. 4. Rate adjustment. The provisions of section 245A.13, subdivisions 7 and 8, shall also apply to voluntary receiverships.

Subd. 5. Controlling individuals; restrictions on licensure. No controlling individual of a residential program placed into receivership under this section shall apply for or receive a license to operate a residential program for five years from the commencement of the receivership period. This subdivision does not apply to residential programs that are owned or operated by controlling individuals, that were in existence prior to the date of the receivership agreement, and that have not been placed into receivership.

Subd. 6. Liability. The controlling individuals of a residential program placed into receivership remain liable for any claims made against the residential program that arose from incidents or events that occurred prior to the commencement of the receivership period. Neither the commissioner nor the managing agent of the commissioner assumes this liability.

Subd. 7. Liability for financial obligations. Neither the commissioner nor the managing agent of the commissioner shall be liable for payment of any financial obligations of the residential program or of its controlling individuals incurred prior to the commencement of the receivership period unless such liability is expressly assumed in the receivership agreement. Those financial obligations remain the liability of the residential program and its controlling individuals. Financial obligations of the residential program incurred after the commencement of the receivership period are the responsibility of the commissioner or the managing agent of the commissioner to the extent such obligations are expressly assumed by each in the receivership or management agreements. The controlling individuals of the residential program remain liable for any financial obligations incurred after the commencement of the receivership period to the extent these obligations are not reimbursed in the rate paid to the residential program and are reasonable and necessary to the operation of the residential program. These financial obligations, or any other financial obligations incurred by the residential program prior to the commencement of the receivership period which are necessary to the continued operation of the residential program, may be deducted from any rental payments owed to the controlling individuals of the residential program as part of the receivership agreement.

Subd. 8. Physical plant of the residential program. Occupation of the physical plant after commencement of the receivership period shall be controlled by paragraphs (a) and (b).

(a) If the physical plant of a residential program placed in receivership is owned by a controlling individual or related party, the physical plant may be used by the commissioner or the managing agent for purposes of the receivership as long as the receivership period continues. A fair monthly rental for the physical plant shall be paid by the commissioner or managing agent to the owner of the physical plant. This fair monthly rental shall be determined by considering all relevant factors necessary to meet required arms-length obligations of controlling individuals such as the mortgage payments owed on the physical plant, the real estate taxes, special assessments, and the conditions of the physical plant. This rental shall not include any allowance for profit or be based on any formula that includes an allowance for profit.

(b) If the owner of the physical plant of a residential program placed in receivership is not a related party, the controlling individual shall continue as the lessee of the property. However, during the receivership period, rental payments shall be made to the owner of the physical plant by the commissioner or the managing agent on behalf

of the controlling individual. Neither the commissioner nor the managing agent assumes the obligations of the lease unless expressly stated in the receivership agreement. Should the lease expire during the receivership, the commissioner or the managing agent may negotiate a new lease for the term of the receivership period.

Subd. 9. Receivership accounting. The commissioner may use the medical assistance account and funds for receivership cash flow and accounting purposes.

Subd. 10. Receivership costs. The commissioner may use the accounts and funds that would have been available for the room and board, services, and program costs of persons in the residential program for costs, cash flow, and accounting purposes related to the receivership.

History: 1987 c 333 s 13; 1989 c 282 art 2 s 82; 1990 c 568 art 2 s 48

245A.13 INVOLUNTARY RECEIVERSHIP FOR RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS.

Subdivision 1. Application. In addition to any other remedy provided by law, the commissioner may petition the district court in the county where the residential program is located for an order directing the controlling individuals of the residential program to show cause why the commissioner should not be appointed receiver to operate the residential program. The petition to the district court must contain proof by affidavit: (1) that the commissioner has either begun license suspension or revocation proceedings, suspended or revoked a license, or has decided to deny an application for licensure of the residential program; or (2) it appears to the commissioner that the health, safety, or rights of the residents may be in jeopardy because of the manner in which the residential program may close, the residential program's financial condition, or violations committed by the residential program of federal or state laws or rules. If the license holder, applicant, or controlling individual operates more than one residential program, the commissioner's petition must specify and be limited to the residential program for which it seeks receivership. The affidavit submitted by the commissioner must set forth alternatives to receivership that have been considered, including rate adjustments. The order to show cause is returnable not less than five days after service is completed and must provide for personal service of a copy to the residential program administrator and to the persons designated as agents by the controlling individuals to accept service on their behalf.

Subd. 2. Appointment of receiver. If the court finds that involuntary receivership is necessary as a means of protecting the health, safety, or rights of persons being served by the residential program, the court shall appoint the commissioner as receiver to operate the residential program. The commissioner as receiver may contract with another entity or group to act as the managing agent during the receivership period. The managing agent will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the residential program subject at all times to the review and approval of the commissioner.

Subd. 3. Powers and duties of the receiver. Within 36 months after the receivership order, the receiver shall provide for the orderly transfer of the persons served by the residential program to other residential programs or make other provisions to protect their health, safety, and rights. The receiver or the managing agent shall correct or eliminate deficiencies in the residential program that the commissioner determines endanger the health, safety, or welfare of the persons being served by the residential program unless the correction or elimination of deficiencies involves major alteration in the structure of the physical plant. If the correction or elimination of the deficiencies requires major alterations in the structure of the physical plant, the receiver shall take actions designed to result in the immediate transfer of persons served by the residential program. During the period of the receivership, the receiver and the managing agent shall operate the residential program in a manner designed to preserve the health, safety, rights, adequate care, and supervision of the persons served by the residential program. The receiver or the managing agent may make contracts and incur lawful expenses. The receiver or the managing agent shall collect incoming payments from all sources and apply them to the cost incurred in the performance of the functions of the receivership including the fee set under subdivision 4. No security interest in any real

or personal property comprising the residential program or contained within it, or in any fixture of the physical plant, shall be impaired or diminished in priority by the receiver or the managing agent.

Subd. 3a. Liability. The provisions contained in section 245A.12, subdivision 6, shall also apply to receiverships ordered according to this section.

Subd. 3b. Liability for financial obligations. The provisions contained in section 245A.12, subdivision 7, also apply to receiverships ordered according to this section.

Subd. 3c. Physical plant of the residential program. Occupation of the physical plant under an involuntary receivership shall be governed by paragraphs (a) and (b).

(a) The physical plant owned by a controlling individual of the residential program or related party must be made available for the use of the residential program throughout the receivership period. The court shall determine a fair monthly rental for the physical plant, taking into account all relevant factors necessary to meet required arms-length obligations of controlling individuals such as mortgage payments, real estate taxes, special assessments, and the conditions of the physical plant. The rental fee must be paid by the receiver to the appropriate controlling individuals or related parties for each month that the receivership remains in effect. No payment made to a controlling individual or related party by the receiver or the managing agent or any state agency during a period of the receivership shall include any allowance for profit or be based on any formula that includes an allowance for profit.

(b) If the owner of the physical plant of a residential program is not a related party, the court shall order the controlling individual to continue as the lessee of the property during the receivership period. Rental payments during the receivership period shall be made to the owner of the physical plant by the commissioner or the managing agent on behalf of the controlling individual.

Subd. 4. Fee. A receiver appointed under an involuntary receivership or the managing agent is entitled to a reasonable fee as determined by the court. The fee is governed by section 256B.495.

Subd. 5. Termination. An involuntary receivership terminates 36 months after the date on which it was ordered or at any other time designated by the court or when any of the following events occurs:

- (1) the commissioner determines that the residential program's license application should be granted or should not be suspended or revoked;
- (2) a new license is granted to the residential program;
- (3) the commissioner determines that all persons residing in the residential program have been provided with alternative residential programs; or
- (4) the residential program closes.

Subd. 6. Emergency procedure. If it appears from the petition filed under subdivision 1, from an affidavit or affidavits filed with the petition, or from testimony of witnesses under oath if the court determines it necessary, that there is probable cause to believe that an emergency exists in a residential program, the court shall issue a temporary order for appointment of a receiver within five days after receipt of the petition. Notice of the petition must be served on the residential program administrator and on the persons designated as agents by the controlling individuals to accept service on their behalf. A hearing on the petition must be held within five days after notice is served unless the administrator or designated agent consents to a later date. After the hearing, the court may continue, modify, or terminate the temporary order.

Subd. 7. Rate recommendation. The commissioner of human services may review rates of a residential program participating in the medical assistance program which is in receivership and that has needs or deficiencies documented by the department of health or the department of human services. If the commissioner of human services determines that a review of the rate established under section 256B.501 is needed, the commissioner shall:

- (1) review the order or determination that cites the deficiencies or needs; and

(2) determine the need for additional staff, additional annual hours by type of employee, and additional consultants, services, supplies, equipment, repairs, or capital assets necessary to satisfy the needs or deficiencies.

Subd. 8. Adjustment to the rate. Upon review of rates under subdivision 7, the commissioner may adjust the residential program's payment rate. The commissioner shall review the circumstances, together with the residential program cost report, to determine whether or not the deficiencies or needs can be corrected or met by reallocating residential program staff, costs, revenues, or other resources including any investments, efficiency incentives, or allowances. If the commissioner determines that any deficiency cannot be corrected or the need cannot be met with the payment rate currently being paid, the commissioner shall determine the payment rate adjustment by dividing the additional annual costs established during the commissioner's review by the residential program's actual resident days from the most recent desk-audited cost report or the estimated resident days in the projected receivership period. The payment rate adjustment must meet the conditions in Minnesota Rules, parts 9553.0010 to 9553.0080, and remains in effect during the period of the receivership or until another date set by the commissioner. Upon the subsequent sale or transfer of the residential program, the commissioner may recover amounts that were paid as payment rate adjustments under this subdivision. The buyer or transferee shall repay this amount to the commissioner within 60 days after the commissioner notifies the buyer or transferee of the obligation to repay. This provision does not limit the liability of the seller to the commissioner pursuant to section 256B.0641.

Subd. 9. Receivership accounting. The commissioner may use the medical assistance account and funds for receivership cash flow and accounting purposes.

Subd. 10. Receivership costs. The commissioner may use the accounts and funds that would have been available for the room and board, services, and program costs of persons in the residential program for costs, cash flow, and accounting purposes related to the receivership.

History: 1987 c 333 s 14; 1988 c 411 s 7; 1989 c 282 art 2 s 83; 1990 c 568 art 2 s 49

245A.14 SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR NONRESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS.

Subdivision 1. Permitted single-family residential use. A licensed nonresidential program with a licensed capacity of 12 or fewer persons and a group family day care facility licensed under Minnesota Rules, parts 9502.0315 to 9502.0445, to serve 14 or fewer children shall be considered a permitted single-family residential use of property for the purposes of zoning and other land use regulations.

Subd. 2. Permitted multifamily use. Except as otherwise provided in subdivision 1 or in a town, municipal, or county regulation, a licensed nonresidential program with a licensed capacity of 13 to 16 persons shall be considered a permitted multifamily residential use of property for purposes of zoning. A town, municipal, or county zoning authority may require a conditional use or special use permit in order to assure proper maintenance and operation of the program. Conditions imposed on the nonresidential program must not be more restrictive than those imposed on other conditional uses or special uses of residential property in the same zones unless the additional conditions are necessary to protect the health and safety of the persons being served by the nonresidential program. Nothing in sections 245A.01 to 245A.16 shall be construed to exclude or prohibit nonresidential programs from single-family zones if otherwise permitted by local zoning regulations.

Subd. 3. Conditional license. Until such time as the commissioner adopts appropriate rules for conditional licenses, no license holder or applicant for a family or group family day care license is required to spend more than \$100 to meet fire safety rules in excess of those required to meet Group "R" occupancies under the Uniform Building Code, chapter 12, as incorporated by reference in Minnesota Rules, part 1305.0100.

When the commissioner determines that an applicant or license holder of a family

or group family day care license would be required to spend over \$100 for physical changes to ensure fire safety, the commissioner may issue a conditional license when all of the following conditions have been met:

(a) The commissioner shall notify the license holder or applicant in writing of the fire safety deficiencies.

(b) The commissioner shall notify the license holder or applicant in writing of alternative compliance standards that would correct deficiencies, if available.

(c) The license holder or applicant agrees in writing to notify each parent, on a form prescribed by the commissioner that requires the signature of the parent, of the fire safety deficiencies, and the existence of the conditional license.

Subd. 4. Special family day care homes. Nonresidential child care programs that are conducted at a location other than the license holder's own residence shall be licensed under the rules governing family day care or group family day care if:

(a) the license holder is the primary provider of care;

(b) the nonresidential child care program is conducted in a dwelling that is located on a residential lot; and

(c) the license holder complies with all other requirements of sections 245A.01 to 245A.15 and the rules governing family day care or group family day care.

Subd. 5. Rules governing staff qualifications in nonresidential child care centers. The education and training requirements for nonresidential child care center staff contained in the rules that were in effect on January 1, 1988, shall be the minimum qualifications until July 1, 1991.

Subd. 6. Drop-in child care programs. Except as expressly set forth in this subdivision, drop-in child care programs must be licensed as a drop-in program under the rules governing child care programs operated in a center. Drop-in child care programs are exempt from the requirements in Minnesota Rules, parts 9503.0040; 9503.0045, subpart 1, items F and G; 9503.0050, subpart 6, except for children less than 2-1/2 years old; one-half the requirements of 9503.0060, subpart 4, item A, subitems (2), (5), and (8), subpart 5, item A, subitems (2), (3), and (7), and subpart 6, item A, subitems (3) and (6); 9503.0070; and 9503.0090, subpart 2. A drop-in child care program must be operated under the supervision of a person qualified as a director and a teacher. A drop-in child care program must maintain a minimum staff ratio for children age 2-1/2 or greater of one staff person for each ten children, except that there must be at least two persons on staff whenever the program is operating. If the program has additional staff who are on call as a mandatory condition of their employment, the minimum ratio may be exceeded only for children age 2-1/2 or greater, by a maximum of four children, for no more than 20 minutes while additional staff are in transit. The minimum staff-to-child ratio for infants up to 16 months of age is one staff person for every four infants. The minimum staff-to-child ratio for children age 17 months to 30 months is one staff for every seven children. In drop-in care programs that serve both infants and older children, children up to age 2-1/2 may be supervised by assistant teachers, as long as other staff are present in appropriate ratios. The minimum staff distribution pattern for a drop-in child care program serving children age 2-1/2 or greater is: the first staff member must be a teacher; the second, third, and fourth staff members must have at least the qualifications of a child care aide; the fifth staff member must have at least the qualifications of an assistant teacher; the sixth, seventh, and eighth staff members must have at least the qualifications of a child care aide; and the ninth staff person must have at least the qualifications of an assistant teacher. The commissioner by rule may require that a drop-in child care program serving children less than 2-1/2 years of age serve these children in an area separated from older children and may permit children age 2-1/2 and older to be cared for in the same child care group.

History: 1987 c 333 s 15; 1988 c 608 s 3,4; 1989 c 282 art 2 s 84,85; 1Sp1989 c 2 s 10; 1990 c 426 art 1 s 28; 1990 c 568 art 2 s 50,51

245A.15 REGULATION OF FAMILY DAY CARE BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The authority of local units of government to establish requirements for family day care programs is limited by section 299F.011, subdivision 4a, clauses (1) and (2).

History: 1987 c 333 s 16

245A.16 STANDARDS FOR COUNTY AGENCIES AND PRIVATE AGENCIES.

Subdivision 1. Delegation of authority to agencies. (a) County agencies and private agencies that have been designated or licensed by the commissioner to perform licensing functions and activities under section 245A.04, to recommend denial of applicants under section 245A.05, to issue correction orders and recommend fines under section 245A.06, or to recommend suspending, revoking, and making licenses probationary under section 245A.07, shall comply with rules and directives of the commissioner governing those functions and with this section.

(b) By January 1, 1991, the commissioner shall study and make recommendations to the legislature regarding the licensing and provision of support services to child foster homes. In developing the recommendations, the commissioner shall consult licensed private agencies, county agencies, and licensed foster home providers.

Subd. 2. Investigations. (a) The county or private agency shall conduct timely investigations of allegations of abuse or neglect of children or adults in programs for which the county or private agency is the commissioner's designated representative and record a disposition of each complaint in accordance with applicable law or rule. The county or private agency shall conduct similar investigations of allegations of violations of rules governing licensure of the program.

(b) If an investigation conducted under clause (a) results in evidence that the commissioner should deny an application or suspend, revoke, or make probationary a license, the county or private agency shall make that recommendation to the commissioner within ten working days.

Subd. 3. Recommendations to the commissioner. The county or private agency shall not make recommendations to the commissioner regarding licensure without first conducting an inspection, study of the applicant, and evaluation pursuant to section 245A.04, subdivisions 3 and 4. The county or private agency must forward its recommendation to the commissioner regarding the appropriate licensing action within 20 working days of receipt of a completed application.

Subd. 4. Enforcement of the commissioner's orders. The county or private agency shall enforce the commissioner's orders under sections 245A.07 and 245A.08, subdivision 5, according to the instructions of the commissioner. The county attorney shall assist the county agency in the enforcement and defense of the commissioner's orders under sections 245A.07 and 245A.08 according to the instructions of the commissioner, unless a conflict of interest exists between the county attorney and the commissioner.

Subd. 5. Instruction and technical assistance. The commissioner shall provide instruction and technical assistance to county and private agencies that are subject to this section. County and private agencies shall cooperate with the commissioner in carrying out this section by ensuring that affected employees participate in instruction and technical assistance provided by the commissioner.

Subd. 6. Certification by the commissioner. The commissioner shall ensure that rules are uniformly enforced throughout the state by reviewing each county and private agency for compliance with this section and other applicable laws and rules at least biennially. County agencies that comply with this section shall be certified by the commissioner. If a county agency fails to be certified by the commissioner, the commissioner shall certify a reduction of up to 20 percent of the county's community social services act funding or an equivalent amount from state administrative aids.

History: 1987 c 333 s 17; 1989 c 282 art 2 s 86; 1990 c 568 art 2 s 52,53

245A.17 REFORM OF RULES AND REGULATIONS AFFECTING SERVICES TO PERSONS WITH MENTAL RETARDATION AND RELATED CONDITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given.

(a) "Commissioners" means the commissioners of human services and health.

(b) "Services" means all services provided to persons with mental retardation or related conditions that are licensed, certified, or regulated by the department of human services or health.

(c) "Rules and regulations" means all laws, interpretative bulletins, or program standards established or administered by the department of human services or health affecting services to persons with mental retardation and related conditions.

(d) "Affected parties" means all consumers of services, providers of services, advocacy groups, and licensing staff.

Subd. 2. **Policy.** The Minnesota legislature intends to ensure that rules and regulations (1) assure quality of care and services, (2) conform with federal and state codes, (3) are cost-effective, and (4) are concise, clear, and noncontradictory.

Subd. 3. **Objectives.** The commissioners shall submit by February 1, 1991, a plan for simplification of rules and regulations governing services to persons with developmental disabilities and related conditions. This plan shall be developed in consultation with affected parties.

History: 1990 c 487 s 1

245A.18 SEAT BELT USE REQUIRED.

(a) When a nonresidential license holder provides or arranges for transportation for children served by the license holder, children four years old and older must be restrained by a properly adjusted and fastened seat belt and children under age four must be properly fastened in a child passenger restraint system meeting federal motor vehicle safety standards. A child passenger restraint system is not required for a child who, in the judgment of a licensed physician, cannot be safely transported in a child passenger restraint system because of a medical condition, body size, or physical disability, if the license holder possesses a written statement from the physician that satisfies the requirements in section 169.685, subdivision 5, paragraph (b).

(b) Paragraph (a) does not apply to transportation of children in a school bus inspected under section 169.451 that has a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds, is designed for carrying more than ten persons, and was manufactured after 1977.

History: 1990 c 568 art 2 s 54