



DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS BULLETIN

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

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May 26, 2010

NUMBER
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SUBJECT:

**Referral to the Early Intervention Program
for Children Under Three Years of Age
Placed in ICFs/MR**

BY:


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Deputy Secretary for Developmental Programs

SCOPE:

County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Programs

PURPOSE:

To transmit the attached Announcement EI-09#13, entitled *Childfind System Including Children Who Are Wards of the State, Children Living in Residential Facilities, Children Who Were Abused, and Children Who Are Homeless*, issued by the Office of Child Development and Early Learning, and to clarify the responsibilities of a county Mental Health/Mental Retardation (“MH/MR”) program to refer children under three years of age (“infants and toddlers”) to the early intervention (“EI”) system when they place an infant or toddler in an Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (“ICF/MR”).

BACKGROUND:

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400-1487 (“IDEA”), and accompanying regulations require each state to have a child find system in place to identify and refer potentially eligible children under three years of age to the EI system. By federal regulation, referrals to the EI program must be made within two working days of when the child is identified. See 34 CFR § 303.321(d)(2).

DISCUSSION:

The Office of Developmental Programs expects that an infant or toddler would be placed in a large ICF/MR only as a last resort, and only after all other placement options have been exhausted. If other options are unavailable and a County MH/MR program places an infant or toddler in an ICF/MR, consistent with federal requirements, each county MH/MR program must refer the child to the EI Program. The referral must be made to the county in which the facility is located within two working days of the child’s placement. The referral should include information needed to enable the EI Program to contact the child’s parent or guardian, in order to move forward with the referral.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The Appropriate Regional Office of Developmental Programs

PROCEDURE:

Effective immediately, a County MH/MR program must make a referral to the EI program by calling CONNECT at 1-800-692-7288 for each infant and toddler for whom the County MH/MR program authorizes placement in an ICF/MR, within two days of the child's placement, and document that the referral was made.

ATTACHMENT:

Announcement EI-09 #13, Childfind System Including Children who are Wards of the State, Children Living in Residential Facilities Children Who Were Abused and Children who are Homeless