

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
BUREAU OF HUMAN SERVICES LICENSING
Community Residential Rehabilitation Services for the Mentally III
(55 Pa.Code Chapter 5310)

Q/A - Regulatory Clarifications – May 2015

The clarifications and interpretations below will remain on the Department's web site until the information is included in the next updated Regulatory Compliance Guide (RCG).

Regulation: § 5310.72(c) – Safety Procedures

§ 5310.72(c) – The CRRS staff providing onsite client supervision must be instructed in the operation of the fire extinguishers.

Question: Must the instruction in the operation of the fire extinguishers be done in person or by a fire safety expert?

ANSWER: The instruction is not required to be given by a fire safety expert. Instruction in the operation of the fire extinguishers can be given by a representative of the facility or someone trained by a fire safety expert. However, instruction must be completed in person and must also include equipment-specific instructions.

Using the wrong type of extinguisher on a fire can be dangerous due to the powders and chemicals in fire extinguishers, since they can be skin and respiratory irritants.

Regulation: § 5310.73(e)(2) – Physical Plant Requirements

§ 5310.73(e) - Each CRRS site shall meet the following requirements for client residential living areas or spaces:

(2) Bedrooms shall be either single or double occupancy. A single occupancy room shall have 80 square feet or more of floor space. A double occupancy room shall have 60 square feet or more of floor space for each client. If a bedroom has a closet, up to 9 square feet may be counted in calculating the square footage of floor space provided there is sufficient floor space to accommodate all items required in paragraph (8).

Question: Are only host home children counted for purposes of the ratio, or are all children counted (including biological, foster; etc.)?

ANSWER: All occupants of the room are counted in any bedroom where a host home child sleeps. If a host home child resides in a bedroom, (s)he may not have more than one roommate.

Regulation: § 5310.124(d) – Service Agreement

§ 5310.124(d) – The agreement must specify the arrangements and charges for housing and food and any liability for the cost of services other than room and board.

Question: How can a facility show compliance with this regulation?

ANSWER: The facility will need to address arrangements and charges in the service agreement. Arrangements and charges for housing and food and any liability for the cost of services other than room and board should be documented in the service agreement. The facility should specify the charges for each category of services; the facility may use percentages to allocate money spent for each category.

Regulation: § 5310.162(6) – Host Homes

§ 5310.162(6) – The CRRS must provide fire extinguishers and smoke detectors for use in host homes and ensure that the surrogate parent receives instruction in the proper use of this equipment.

Question: Must the instruction in the proper use of of the fire extinguishers and smoke detectors be done in person or by a fire safety expert?

ANSWER: The instruction is not required to be given by a fire safety expert. Instruction in the proper use of the fire extinguishers and smoke detectors can be given by a representative of the facility. However, instruction must be completed in person and must also include equipment-specific instructions.

Using the wrong type of extinguisher on a fire can be dangerous due to the powders and chemicals in fire extinguishers, since they can be skin and respiratory irritants. It is recommended that surrogate parents receive in person training in the proper use of the fire extinguishers and smoke detectors from a qualified fire safety expert.