



Mississippi Department of Mental Health
Provider Bulletin
Number PR001

Subject: Releases of Information

Issue Date: March 7, 2012

Effective Date: March 7, 2012

Scope

All DMH/H Certified Service Providers (ID/DD Waiver Service Providers)
All DMH/C Certified Service Providers (Community Mental Health Centers)

Purpose

Provide direction for the need for written Consents to Release/Obtain Information for ID/DD Waiver Participants when services are being brokered by ID/DD Waiver Support Coordination.

Background

ID/DD Waiver Support Coordinators engage potential providers to assist ID/DD Waiver Participants with accessing services. Support Coordinators have obtained Consents to Release/Obtain Information from the ID/DD Waiver Participants prior to initiating the process to broker/facilitate services for those individuals. At times, the process and logistics of getting releases signed has actually delayed service provision.

Subject

Mississippi Code Section 41-21-97 allows for the release of information when the release is necessary for the determination of eligibility for benefits. DMH has determined that the act of ID/DD Waiver Support Coordination brokering/facilitating services for an ID/DD Waiver Participant with a potential provider is done to determine eligibility for benefits, in this instance services. **As of the effective date of this bulletin, ID/DD Waiver Support Coordinators are no longer required to obtain a written Consent to Release/Obtain Information prior to initiating the process to broker/facilitate services for an ID/DD Waiver Participant. However, a written Consent to Release/Obtain Information must be obtained within thirty (30) days of the date that the ID/DD Waiver Support Coordinator begins contact with the potential provider to facilitate the provision of services for the participant.**

ID/DD Waiver Service Providers should be aware of this revision to policy and practice. ID/DD Waiver Service Providers should continue to collaborate with ID/DD Waiver Support Coordinators to determine eligibility for services and facilitate service provision for ID/DD Waiver Participants.