



Mississippi Department of Mental Health

Provider Bulletin

Number PR0139

Subject: Clarification of DMH Operational Standard Rule 29.2D and Waiver Requests

Issue Date: June 8, 2023

Effective Date: Immediately

Scope

All DMH-Certified Providers of Children and Youth Mental Health Services

Purpose

To address and clarify the submission of Waiver Requests pertaining to DMH Operational Standards Rule 29.2.D (2020 DMH Operational Standards)

Background

The 2020 DMH Operational Standards Rule 29.2.D reads as follows:

Each foster home or resource home must have no more than one (1) child/youth with serious emotional disturbance placed in the home at a given time. Agency providers seeking to place more than one (1) child/youth with serious emotional disturbance in a resource home must obtain prior approval from the MS Department of Child Protection Services. Siblings with serious emotional disturbance may be placed together in the same home if all of the following conditions apply:

1. The siblings have never been separated;
2. The siblings are not a danger to others or to each other; and,
3. Therapeutic resource parents asked to place siblings in their home must consent, in advance in writing, to the placement. This documentation must be maintained in the record of each sibling.

Information

As the above Operational Standard is written, rather than a waiver request (disregarding the sibling clause noted above), agency providers seeking to place more than one (1) child/youth with serious emotional disturbance in a resource home must obtain prior approval from the MS Department of Child Protection Services (MS CPS) along with written documentation from the resource parents consenting to place siblings in their home; this documentation should be submitted to the DMH Division of Children and Youth Services. The DMH Division of Children and Youth Services will then decide if the submitted documentation is acceptable. As the Standard is written, acceptable documentation from MS CPS and the resource parents, as determined by the DMH Division of Children and Youth Services, is sufficient to meet the Standard without having to request a waiver.

Questions regarding third-party payer sources should be directed to the appropriate payer source.

If you have questions, contact Lynda Stewart, DMH Director of Children and Youth Services, at lynda.stewart@dmh.ms.gov or 601-359-1288.

End of Provider Bulletin