

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



January 30, 2008

TO: CRISIS NURSERY LICENSEES

FROM: *Original signed by Robert Pate*
ROBERT PATE, Program Administrator
Statewide Children's Residential Programs
Community Care Licensing Division

SUBJECT: **CRISIS NURSERY REGULATIONS**

The Crisis Nursery (CN) regulations became effective on December 31, 2007, and implemented Senate Bill 855, Chapter 664, Statutes of 2004. This statute required the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to adopt emergency regulations and create a new children's residential licensing category titled "Crisis Nurseries."

All applicable regulations governing CN facilities can be found in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, Division 6, Chapter 7.3. Please note that the General Licensing Requirements, Title 22, Division 6, Chapter 1, do **not** apply to CN facilities. A copy of the regulations can be obtained from the Department of Social Services (CDSS) Website at: <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/PG295.htm>. It is the responsibility of all CN licensees to read and become familiar with the new CN regulations.

Some of the highlights of these new regulations are as follows:

- CN may provide care for children under the age of six who are voluntarily placed by their parents/guardians for up to 30 days. The length of stay shall not exceed 14 days for a child placed by county child welfare services agency, pursuant to Section 856501(c)(17) and Section 86528(f)(2).
- County-placements are limited to no more than one-third of a CN facility's licensed capacity pursuant to Section 86528(f)(1).
- CN are licensed for a maximum capacity of 14 children, pursuant to Section 86528(a)(1).
- CN may provide day care services for children less than six years of age at the same site as the crisis nursery. Child care services are limited to no more than 30 calendar days in a six-month period, pursuant to Section 86580(a) unless the Department issues an exception.

CRISIS NURSERY REGULATIONS

Page 2

- CN shall be required to report monthly to their local regional office, the total number of children placed in the program designating whether each child is voluntarily placed by the parents or legal guardians or placed by the county child welfare services and the length of stay for each child, pursuant to Section 86561(h) through (3).
- CN that accepts children placed by a county child welfare services shall provide an annual report to their local regional office within 60 days of the following calendar year indicating: 1) the total number of children placed by a county child welfare services, 2) the length of stay, 3) the age for each child, 4) the average length of stay for all of the children placed by the county child welfare services, 5) the reasons given by the county for the use of the crisis nursery, pursuant to Senate Bill 104 (Chapter 288, Statutes of 2007)
- Volunteers that are fingerprinted and fully trained may be counted in the staff to child ratio, pursuant to Section 86519(a)(1) and Section 86565 (w).

Licensed group homes currently providing CN services must complete and submit the attached LIC 200 (12/07) form, "Application For A Community Care Facility" to their local regional office at the address below no later than March 1, 2008. There will be no processing fee charged for this change. No other CCL form is necessary at this time unless notified by CCL.

If you have questions regarding the processing of the LIC 200 application form, please contact Gary Levenson-Palmer, Regional Manager of the Northern California Children's Residential Program at (916) 263-4700, or Angela Valdez, Regional Manager of the Central California, Children's Residential Program at (408) 324-2112. If you have questions or need additional information regarding the Crisis Nursery regulations, please contact Fernando Sandoval, Manager of the Children's Residential Policy Unit at (916) 445-2154.

Local Regional Offices:

Northern California Children's Residential Program
Attention: Gary Levenson-Palmer
2525 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 270
Sacramento, CA 95833

Central California Children's Residential Program
Attention: Angela Valdez
2580 North First Street, Suite 350
San Jose, CA 95131

Attachment: LIC 200

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