

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES – FISCAL ESTIMATE

1. Fiscal Estimate Version

Original Updated Corrected

2. Administrative Rule Chapter Title and Number

Ch. HFS 10 Family Care

3. Subject

Emergency rules relating to confidentiality requirements that prohibit benefit specialists from disclosing personally identifying information about a client without the client's informed consent.

4. State Fiscal Effect:

No Fiscal Effect

Indeterminate

Increase Existing Revenues

Decrease Existing Revenues

Increase Costs

Yes No

May be possible to absorb within agency's budget.

Decrease Costs

5. Fund Sources Affected:

GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEG-S

6. Affected Ch. 20, Stats. Appropriations:

7. Local Government Fiscal Effect:

No Fiscal Effect

Indeterminate

Increase Revenues

Decrease Revenues

Increase Costs

Decrease Costs

8. Local Government Units Affected:

Towns Villages Cities Counties School Districts WTCS Districts Others:

9. Private Sector Fiscal Effect (small businesses only):

No Fiscal Effect

Indeterminate

Increase Revenues

Decrease Revenues

Yes No May have significant economic impact on a substantial number of small businesses

Increase Costs

Yes No

May have significant economic impact on a substantial number of small businesses

Decrease Costs

10. Types of Small Businesses Affected:

The rules do not affect businesses.

11. Fiscal Analysis Summary

Chapter HFS 10 is the department's rule that guides the implementation of the department's Family Care program. Included in these provisions are standards for confidentiality which prohibit disability benefit specialists from disclosing personally identifying information about a client without the client's consent unless required by law. Because disability benefit specialists are permissive reporters, and thus not required to report abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of elder adults and adults at risk under ss. 46.90 (4) (ar) and 55.043 (1m) (br), Stats., s. HFS 10.23 (2) (d) 2., effectively prevents disability benefits specialists from making such disclosures.

The department is revising s. HFS 10.23 (2) (d) 2., by adding language that would permit disability benefit specialists to report abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of elder adults or adults-at-risk without violating that section's non-disclosure provisions.

Amending s. HFS 10.23 (2) (d) 2., to allow disability benefit specialists to report abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation under ss. 46.90 (4) (ar) and 55.043 (1m) (br), Stats., would help to ensure that elder adults and adults-at-risk who may have been abused, neglected, or financially exploited are brought to the attention of the abuse, neglect and exploitation response systems outlined under ss. 46.90 and 55.043, Stats.

There is a potential increase in costs to counties that would be associated with counties responding to additional reports of abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation generated as a result of disability benefit specialists being able to make such reports. However, it is expected that this impact would be minimal since many other parties can report such incidents so that the impact of this change would only likely affect the timing and source of the report.

12. Long-Range Fiscal Implications

None known.

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