

Keys Amendment

The role for Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) is to establish, maintain, and ensure enforcement of specific licensing standards for foster homes and facilities (other than nursing facilities) in which individuals who receive SSI reside. The purpose of the Keys Amendment is to assure the federal government that we have established standards for these facilities. Nebraska DHHS is required to submit these assurances to the Social Security Administration annually.

Facilities affected by the Keys Amendment:

- Centers for the developmentally disabled
- Assisted living facilities
- Substance abuse treatment centers
- Mental health centers
- Foster care homes for children
- Group foster homes for children
- Child caring agencies

Current Assurance Letter:

November 8, 2007

Al Fatur
Social Security Administration
Office of Income Security Programs
Keys Section
Cubicle #195 RRCC
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21235

Dear Mr. Fatur:

The State of Nebraska certifies that the following provisions of the Keys Amendment (Section 1616(e) of the Social Security Act; 45 CFR Part 1397) have been met:

1397.10 (a): In Nebraska, residential facilities in which a significant number of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients reside or are likely to reside are identified as Assisted Living Facilities, Centers for the Developmentally Disabled, Substance Abuse Treatment Centers, Mental Health Centers, Foster Care Homes for Children, Group Foster Homes for Children, and Child Caring Agencies.

1397.10 (b): The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health (for facilities in which adults reside) and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Children & Family Services (for facilities in which children reside) are the designated authorities to establish, maintain, and ensure the enforcement of standards for non-medical and medical (other than those certified for Medicaid or Medicare) residential facilities in which SSI recipients reside.

1397.10 (c): On an annual basis, the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Medicaid & Long Term Care makes available for public review, through the Health and Human Services website, a summary of the standards established in accordance with 1397.10 (b) including the name and address of each standard setting authority from which interested individuals may obtain further information about full standards, enforcement procedures, waivers of standards, and violations.

1397.10 (d): In order to comply with Section 1397.20, each designated standard-setting authority has established standards appropriate to the needs of the SSI recipients residing in facilities, has established procedures for enforcing the standards, and reports the names and addresses of facilities in violation of standards to the appropriate Social Security Administration Office in accordance with the requirement of Section 1397.20 (c).

1397.10 (g): Vivianne M. Chaumont, Director, Division of Medicaid & Long Term Care, Department of Health and Human Services, is the designated official to assist in the implementation of the requirements of Section 1397.10.

No changes have been made in the standards or enforcement of regulations since the last certification.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Virginia Goomis, Administrator, Division of Medicaid & Long Term Care, at (402) 471-9185.

Sincerely,

Vivianne M. Chaumont, Director
Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care
Department of Health and Human Services