



Client Alert

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Georgia DCH to Delay New Rules for Personal Care Homes

The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), Healthcare Facility Regulation Division (the Division), announced that it will delay its recommendation to the Board of Community Health regarding the adoption of proposed rules for personal care homes. The DCH will take additional time to address concerns and confusion expressed in the comments it has received on the proposed rules.

On November 18, 2010, the Division published proposed rules for personal care homes in Georgia with the goal of expanding the level of services that such facilities may offer. The deadline for comments on the proposed rules was December 29, 2010. Prior to that deadline, however, the Division posted the following announcement to its website:

The Healthcare Facility Regulation Division (Division) appreciates the comments received concerning the proposed amendments to the Rules and Regulations for Personal Care Homes. The hearing on the proposed rules scheduled for December 29, 2010, will be held as scheduled to receive additional comments. However, please be advised that in response to the public comments already received reflecting confusion over the proposed language, the Division, on behalf of the Department, will not be recommending to the Department of Community Health Board that the proposed rules be adopted at the January 2011 Board meeting.

The Division will use the public comments it receives to inform further revisions to the proposed personal care home rules to clarify apparently ambiguous language. The rule changes proposed were not intended to be read as restrictively as some members of the public are reading them. The Department values the role of personal care homes in providing residential care to persons who require assistance with the activities of daily living but do not require continuous skilled nursing care and placement in a nursing home.¹

¹ See http://dch.georgia.gov/00/article/0,2086,31446711_31450193_165812223,00.html

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