



DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Olympia, Washington

TITLE: HOSPICE CARE POLICY 9.04

Authority: RCW 7.70.065, 70.122, 70.126.010
Chapters 248-21, 248-31 WAC
DSHS Administrative Policy 6.09
DDD Policy 7.03
In re Grant, 109 WN.2d 545, 747(1987)

BACKGROUND

Hospice care for people with terminal illnesses is a service which promotes home care for clients that is less expensive than hospitalization and provides continuity of care with minimal disruption to the lifestyles of the individuals and their families.

PURPOSE

This policy establishes procedures to provide individuals who are terminally ill the opportunity to remain with friends and familiar caregivers, to receive comprehensive care that recognizes their spiritual needs, and to assist them to live as fully and completely as possible with meaning and dignity.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Residential Habilitation Centers (RHC) within the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD).

POLICY

Individuals who live in RHCs and who have been diagnosed with a terminal illness may be offered hospice care upon request of the individuals, their families, and/or guardians. Individuals shall receive comprehensive medical care and habilitative services appropriate to their needs and which is consistent with the expressed preferences of the individuals, their families, and/or guardians.

PROCEDURES

Determination of hospice care for an individual requires the following:

- A. A written certification of a terminal condition or illness, prepared by three (3) physicians, one of whom is not an employee of the facility;
- B. A written request for hospice care provided by the client, family, or guardian;
- C. An informed consent provided for the client's inclusion in the hospice care program;
- D. The RHC Superintendent's review and endorsement of the request for hospice care;
- E. A written individualized plan of care developed before hospice care begins;
- F. An assessment of the client's and family's needs for services;
- G. Identification of scope and frequency of services to meet the needs of the client and family;
- H. A determination of palliative and supportive services to be provided and a listing of extraordinary life-sustaining services that are not to be provided;
- I. A counseling plan for client, family, friends, and care providers;
- J. Documentation of consultation with outside resources, when appropriate;
- K. An Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) review and plan to implement the hospice care; and
- L. Provision of training on bereavement and death and dying for staff.

DEFINITIONS

"Hospice Care" means a comprehensive program of services provided to a terminally ill individual that emphasizes the management of pain and other physical symptoms, as well as management of the psychosocial needs of the dying individual and the family members.

