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New Rules Dealing with Background Checks, Nurse Delegation Take Effect Today

DES MOINES, IOWA (September 25, 2013) – The Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) has adopted new administrative rules dealing with background checks and nurse delegation in assisted living program, elder group homes, and adult day service programs. The new rules take effect on September 25, 2013, and are incorporated into Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 481—67, “General Provisions for Elder Group Homes, Assisted Living Programs, and Adult Day Services”.

The changes to the background check rules implement legislative changes to the statute that requires elder group homes, assisted living programs, and adult day service programs to conduct criminal history and child abuse/dependent adult abuse record checks of prospective employees. Included in the new rules are provisions dealing with employment pending evaluations, and evaluation of a person with a criminal or abuse level who changes employment.

Changes to the nurse delegation rules clarify that programs must have training records and staffing schedules on file, and documentation of training must include training of certified and non-certified staff on nurse delegation procedures. Additionally, a program’s newly hired registered nurse is the individual with 60 days to document a review to ensure that staff is sufficiently trained and competent in all tasks assigned or delegated. The rules were rewritten to clarify that all program staff must receive training within 30 days of beginning employment.

Copies of the Department’s administrative rules may be found on the Iowa General Assembly’s website at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/IowaLaw/AdminCode/chapterDocs.aspx?pubDate=09-18-2013&agency=481>.