TO: Commissioners of Social Services  

DATE: October 12, 1990  

SUBJECT: Family-type Homes for Adults: Unannounced Inspection Visits

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SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION:  

Directors of Services  
Adult Services Staff  
Staff Development Coordinators

CONTACT PERSON:  
Adult Services program representative for your district at 1-800-342-3715 and the appropriate extension:

Irv Abelman 2-2980 or (212) 804-1247  
Kathleen Crowe 2-2996  
Cheryl Flanigan 2-2997  
Sharon Lane 2-2985  
Marsha Meyers 2-2864

ATTACHMENTS: None

FILING REFERENCES

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I PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to reinforce your responsibility to conduct a minimum of one unannounced inspection a year of each Family-type Home for Adults (FTHAs) within your jurisdiction.

II BACKGROUND

Section 489.5 of the Department's regulations states that local district staff must perform a complete inspection of each certified family-type home at least once every six months in accordance with definitions and procedures set forth in Sections 486.1 and 2 of this Title. Section 486.2(d) of the Department's regulations requires the Department, or where appropriate, a local district to conduct a minimum of one unannounced full inspection a year of each adult care facility. Because the Department has delegated its authority for the inspection and supervision of FTHAs to the local districts, it is their responsibility to conduct unannounced inspections of these adult care facilities. A recent audit conducted by the Office of the State Comptroller found that some local districts were not conducting unannounced inspections and that the Department had not given any clear guidelines on this requirement.

III Program Implications

Since this is not a new responsibility, no additional inspections will be required by local district staff. Consequently, this directive will not necessitate additional staff, although it may result in a minimal increase in staff travel time in those situations when no one is at home at the time an unannounced inspection is attempted. From a programmatic perspective, unannounced inspection visits should result in an improved quality of care for the residents of FTHAs.

IV Required Action

Local district staff must conduct a minimum of one unannounced full inspection a year for each FTHAs.

V Systems Implications

None

VI Additional Information

None

VII Effective date

November 1, 1990

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Judith Berek
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Adult Services