



MARK B HORTON, MD, MSPH
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

September 9, 2008

AFL 08-28

TO: General Acute Care Hospitals
Acute Psychiatric Hospital
Special Hospitals
Long Term Health Care Facilities

SUBJECT: Impacts of State Budget Impasse to Licensed and Certified Facilities

As of September 9, 2008, California is still without a budget for fiscal year 2008-2009. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is aware that many of the state's licensed health care facilities rely on State Medi-Cal funds to operate. With no authority to provide those funds to facilities in the absence of a State budget, facilities are undoubtedly facing hardships. CDPH is very concerned about the budget impasse and the impact it is having on providers, patients, and residents. Communication at this time is critical and we want to work together to ensure patient safety.

To that end, please notify CDPH as soon as possible of any financial difficulties, current or potential, you are facing as a result of the current budget impasse that may result in the closure of your facility, or the transfer or discharge of residents and clients. As you know, regulations require facilities to report to the Department any unusual occurrence which threatens the welfare, safety or health of patients, personnel or visitors.¹ Receiving these updates will allow us to document the nature and extent of the problems so we can support your operations/facility.

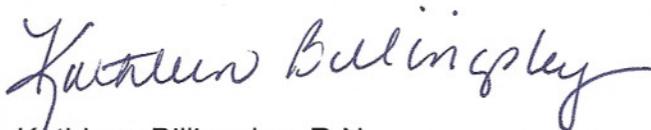
If you are licensed as a long term care facility, there are statutory requirements for informing residents and clients of your pending inability to care for them 30 days in advance of the closure.² Further, facilities must provide the relocation plan for the affected residents and clients to the local long term care ombudsman and to CDPH for approval at least 15 days prior to the 30 day advance notice.³

For your convenience, below is a listing of the phone numbers for the district offices throughout the state:

Bakersfield	(661) 336-0543 or 1 (866) 222-1903
Chico	(530) 895-6711 or 1 (800) 554-0350
Daly City	(650) 301-9971 or 1 (800) 554-0353
East Bay	(510) 620-3900 or 1 (866) 247-9100

Fresno	(559) 437-1500 or 1 (800) 554-0351
Los Angeles	(323) 869-8500 or 1 (800) 228-1019
Orange County	(714) 456-0630 or 1 (800) 228-5234
Riverside	(909) 388-7170 or 1 (888) 354-9203
Sacramento	(916) 263-5800 or 1 (800) 554-0354
San Bernardino	(909) 383-4777 or 1 (800) 344-2896
San Diego (North)	(619) 278-3700 or 1 (800) 824-0613
San Diego (South)	(619) 688-6190 or 1 (866) 706-0759
San Jose	(408) 277-1784 or 1 (800) 554-0348
Santa Rosa	(707) 576-6775 or 1 (866) 784-0703
Ventura	(805) 604-2926 or 1 (800) 547-8267

Sincerely,



Kathleen Billingsley, R.N.
Deputy Director
Center for Healthcare Quality

¹ California Code of Regulations Title 22 Section 70737 (22 CCR § 70737) (General Acute Care Hospitals), 22 CCR § 71535 (Acute Psychiatric Hospital), 22 CCR § 72541 (Skilled Nursing Facilities), 22 CCR § 73539 (Intermediate Care Facilities), 22 CCR § 76551 (Intermediate Care Facilities For The Developmentally Disabled), 22 CCR § 76923 (Intermediate Care Facilities/Developmentally Disabled – Habilitative), 22 CCR § 77137 (Psychiatric Health Facilities).

² Health and Safety Code (HSC) 1336, 1336.2.

³ HSC 1336.2(h).