

CHAPTER 93

ADAPTIVE LIVING SKILLS SERVICES

Authority

N.J.S.A. 30:6-1 et seq.

Source and Effective Date

R.2000 d.502, effective November 20, 2000.
See: 32 N.J.R. 3209(a), 32 N.J.R. 4465(a).

Executive Order No. 66(1978) Expiration Date

Chapter 93, Adaptive Living Skills Services, expires on November 20, 2005.

Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 93, Adaptive Living Skills Services, was adopted as new rules by R.1996 d.8, effective January 2, 1996. See: 27 N.J.R. 3670(a), 28 N.J.R. 187(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order 66(1978), Chapter 93, Adaptive Living Skills Services, was readopted as R.2000 d.502, effective November 20, 2000. See: Source and Effective Date.

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SUBCHAPTER 1. SCOPE OF ADAPTIVE LIVING SKILLS SERVICES

10:93-1.1 Adaptive living skills services

(a) Social casework, orientation and mobility and home instruction services shall be available to all eligible clients and are based on the availability of staff, community and fiscal resources.

(b) Social casework, orientation and mobility and home instruction services described in this chapter shall be made available to the public and other interested parties and groups by Commission staff for the purpose of educating individuals about blindness and visual impairment, the services of the Commission and the use of specialized equipment. The provision of these services shall be based on the availability of staff and fiscal resources.

10:93-1.2 Social casework services

Assigned caseworkers visit blind and visually impaired individuals in their homes or other mutually agreed upon locations to assess needs, determine eligibility for service and evaluate and address an individual's circumstances including socio-economic factors, medical, housing and emergency needs (see N.J.A.C. 10:93-2).

10:93-1.3 Orientation and mobility services

Orientation and mobility instructors provide evaluation and instruction in independent travel techniques to blind and visually impaired individuals. These services may be rendered in the individual's home, or other mutually agreed upon locations, using appropriate travel aides. The goal is to enable blind and visually impaired individuals to travel safely and independently (see N.J.A.C. 10:93-3).

10:93-1.4 Home instruction services

Home instructors work with blind and visually impaired individuals in their homes or other mutually agreed upon locations to assess needs as related to visual problems and offer adjustment counseling to clients and family members. Home instructors provide instruction in home management skills, activities of daily living, usage of specialized equipment, communication skills, such as braille and typing, and leisure time activities. The goal of these services is to assist clients to function safely and independently (see N.J.A.C. 10:93-4).

SUBCHAPTER 2. SOCIAL CASEWORK SERVICES

10:93-2.1 General purpose

Social casework services are designed to assess the personal and social service needs of clients, inform clients of

available Commission and community resources, and provide and/or coordinate the appropriate services to meet identified needs.

10:93-2.2 Eligibility criteria

Social casework services shall be available to any client who expresses or demonstrates needs related to social services. These services, provided by an assigned caseworker, shall also be available to new referrals in need of comprehensive assessments to determine how the Commission can best serve them. All clients shall meet the eligibility and residency requirements as specified in N.J.A.C. 10:91-2.1 and 2.5.

10:93-2.3 Scope of services

(a) Services offered to individuals are:

1. Assess individual client needs and the availability of community resources that address the needs;
2. Develop an individual service plan, jointly with a client, list the services to be delivered and implement the service plan to meet client needs and goals;
3. Develop a community support network, whenever possible, geared to meet the social service needs of the client by establishing linkages with appropriate and available community service providers; and
4. Oversee the provision of services and outcomes to insure that services are appropriate and client needs are met.

SUBCHAPTER 3. ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SERVICES

10:93-3.1 General purpose

Orientation and mobility services are designed to teach methods for safe, independent indoor and/or outdoor travel emphasizing environmental awareness, training in the use of other senses and utilization of remaining vision. The purpose of these services shall be to enable clients who are capable of benefiting from these services, based on an evaluation of a client's ability or potential to learn orientation and mobility skills, to be appropriately oriented and to travel on their own to and around their workplaces, schools, places of residence and communities.

10:93-3.2 Eligibility criteria

(a) Instruction by specialists in orientation and mobility skills shall be provided to preschoolers, students and adults who meet the established visual and residency criteria (see N.J.A.C. 10:91-2.1 and 2.5).

(b) Out-of-State residents, resident and non-resident aliens who meet the eligibility standards shall be eligible for orientation and mobility services (see N.J.A.C. 10:91-2.1 and 2.5).

10:93-3.3 Scope of services

(a) Instructional services shall be provided to assist an individual to achieve specific, long and short-term objectives, such as:

1. General instruction in independent travel techniques;
2. Going to school or work and returning home;
3. Becoming oriented to a new school or job; or
4. Crossing streets or using a particular mode of transportation.

(b) Services shall cease when the objective is achieved or when the instructor has determined that the individual cannot currently achieve the skill. This determination will be based on the instructors' observations of client motivation, ability to undertake assigned tasks and to benefit from continued instruction.

(c) When the instructor has determined that the individual cannot currently achieve the skill, the client, parent and/or guardian will be so advised and instruction shall stop.

10:93-3.4 Provision of equipment

(a) The following equipment shall be provided to clients receiving orientation and mobility services, at no cost to clients, on a one time basis:

1. A folding cane;
2. An auto-support/identification cane; and
3. Noir glasses.

(b) Equipment which replaces items previously provided to a client shall be the responsibility of a client to purchase.

(c) If a client is financially unable to purchase a replacement item, he or she is eligible to apply to the Client Assistance Fund (see N.J.A.C. 10:91-4.3(p)).

(d) Electronic aids, devices and equipment such as laser canes and Mowat sensors, may be purchased for a client, where such aids offer a demonstrable advantage in terms of safety and performance and when the financial need standard is met (see N.J.A.C. 10:91-3). This determination shall be made by the assigned orientation and mobility instructor.