

## ADULT CARE FACILITIES

New York State, through the State Department of Health, licenses and supervises adult care facilities which provide temporary or long-term, non-medical residential care services to adults who are substantially unable to live independently. Resident dependence may be the result of physical or other limitations associated with age, physical or mental disabilities or other factors. Residents of adult homes, enriched housing and assisted living programs are provided with personal care and services on a long-term basis; residences for adults provide long-term residential care with supervision but without personal care. Most residents of adult care facilities are in need of supervision and personal care services necessary to enable the resident to maintain good personal health and hygiene, to carry out the basic activities of daily living, and to participate in the ongoing activities of the facility. Personal care includes direction and assistance with grooming (including care of hair and ordinary care of nails, teeth and mouth); dressing; bathing; walking and ordinary movement from bed to chair or wheelchair; eating; and assisting with self-administration of medications. However, residents of adult care facilities must not require the continual medical or nursing services provided in acute care hospitals, in-patient psychiatric facilities, skilled nursing homes or health related facilities, since adult care facilities are not licensed to provide any nursing or medical care.

- \* An **adult home** is established and operated for the purpose of providing long-term residential care, room, board, housekeeping, personal care and supervision to five or more adults unrelated to the operator. Adult homes may be operated by a natural person, a partnership, a not-for-profit corporation, a public corporation, a non-publicly traded business corporation or a limited liability company.
- \* An **enriched housing program** is established and operated for the purpose of providing long-term residential care to five or more adults, primarily persons sixty-five years of age or older, in community-integrated settings resembling independent housing units. The program provides or arranges for the provision of room, board, housekeeping, personal care and supervision. Enriched housing programs may be operated by a natural person, a partnership, a not-for-profit corporation, a public corporation, a non-publicly traded business corporation or a limited liability company.
- \* A **family-type home** for adults is established and operated for the purpose of providing long-term residential care, room, board, housekeeping, personal care and/or supervision to four or fewer adult persons unrelated to the operator. These homes are operated by a person in his/her own home. Neither proprietary nor not-for-profit corporations are permitted to operate a family-type home. Information on family-type homes may be obtained from your local county Department of Social Services office.
- \* A **residence for adults** is established and operated for the purpose of providing long-term residential care, room, board, housekeeping and supervision to five or more adults unrelated to the operator.
- \* An **assisted living program**, which is available in some adult homes and enriched housing programs, combines residential and home care services. It is designed as an alternative to nursing home placement for individuals who historically have been admitted to nursing facilities for reasons that are primarily social, rather than medical in nature. The operator of the assisted living program is responsible for providing or arranging for resident services that must include room, board, housekeeping, supervision, personal care, case management and home health services.

Under State Law, no person or organization may operate an adult care facility without an operating certificate from the Department. Operating certificates are issued only to operators who satisfactorily demonstrate good character, competency and the ability to operate facilities in compliance with law and regulations. Facilities are subject to periodic inspection by state staff to determine if the facility is being operated in a manner that protects the health, safety and well being of residents. (Family-type homes are inspected by staff of local social services districts.) Failure of an operator to comply with regulations may result in fines or action to revoke or suspend the operating certificate. As you become familiar with adult care facilities and their programs, we encourage you to visit facilities, speak with the staff and residents, and review the recent inspection reports available at the facility and from the **New York State Department of Health, Adult Care Facility Complaint Hotline, telephone number 1-866-893-6772**, or visit their website at <http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/acf/map.htm>.

Information prepared by New York State Department of Housing & Adult Services / Western Regional Office and provided by:

**Erie County Department of Senior Services, 95 Franklin St., Buffalo, NY 14202-3968  
(716)858-8526**