



MENTAL RETARDATION BULLETIN

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA • DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

ISSUE DATE

September 15, 1999

EFFECTIVE DATE

Immediately

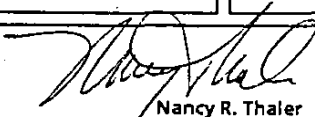
NUMBER

00-99-13

SUBJECT

Acceptable Signers of the
Beneficiary Choice Form for
the Infant/ Toddler/Family Waiver

BY


Nancy R. Thaler
Deputy Secretary for Mental Retardation

SCOPE:

County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Administrators

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify who may sign the freedom of choice form (PW456) for children considered for the Infant/Toddler/Family Waiver.

BACKGROUND:

There have been a number of questions concerning the ability of foster parents to sign the freedom of choice form for children considered for the Infant/Toddler/Family Waiver. Staff from the Offices of Mental Retardation and Children, Youth and Families met to discuss who should sign the choice form for children in foster care.

DISCUSSION:

The Offices of Mental Retardation and Children, Youth and Families agreed that since children in foster care are under the custodial supervision of a County Children, Youth and Family Agency, it is the responsibility of the County Children, Youth and Family Agency to have a representative of that agency or one of the child's parents sign the freedom of choice form as the child's legal representative. Choice forms may not be signed by foster parents.

REFER COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS TO:

Regional Mental Retardation Program