Mental Retardation Bulletin
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Department of Public Welfare

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Subject: Guardianship Petitioning Process at State Centers

By: Jennifer L. Howse, PhD
Deputy Secretary for Mental Retardation

Scope

Regional Mental Retardation Commissioners
Facility Directors - State MR Centers
Directors - MR Units
Guardian Officers
Office of Client Rights

Purpose

To clarify the issue of Competency redeterminations.

Background

In the Joint MH/MR Bulletin #99-82-47, dated September 24, 1982, monitoring the Guardianship Petitioning Process at State Centers and Mental Hospitals under the Petitioning Coordinator's Responsibilities, it states that redeterminations are to be initiated every two years for severely and profoundly retarded residents, or every year for mildly or moderately retarded residents.

Procedure

If in the initial competency determination, an individual is determined to be competent to handle their finances, a redetermination every year for mildly or moderately retarded residents, or every two years for severely or profoundly retarded residents does not have to take place. The only time a redetermination for the above individuals would be required is if they become unable to handle their finances, according to the assessment of the interdisciplinary team.

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