

The 2017 Florida Statutes

Title XXIX

PUBLIC HEALTH

Chapter 397

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

397.487 Voluntary certification of recovery residences. —

(1) The Legislature finds that a person suffering from addiction has a higher success rate of achieving long-lasting sobriety when given the opportunity to build a stronger foundation by living in a recovery residence after completing treatment. The Legislature further finds that this state and its subdivisions have a legitimate state interest in protecting these persons, who represent a vulnerable consumer population in need of adequate housing. It is the intent of the Legislature to protect persons who reside in a recovery residence.

(2) The department shall approve at least one credentialing entity by December 1, 2015, for the purpose of developing and administering a voluntary certification program for recovery residences. The approved credentialing entity shall:

(a) Establish recovery residence certification requirements.

(b) Establish procedures to:

1. Administer the application, certification, recertification, and disciplinary processes.
2. Monitor and inspect a recovery residence and its staff to ensure compliance with certification requirements.
3. Interview and evaluate residents, employees, and volunteer staff on their knowledge and application of certification requirements.

(c) Provide training for owners, managers, and staff.

(d) Develop a code of ethics.

(e) Establish application, inspection, and annual certification renewal fees. The application fee may not exceed \$100. Any onsite inspection fee shall reflect actual costs for inspections. The annual certification renewal fee may not exceed \$100.

(3) A credentialing entity shall require the recovery residence to submit the following documents with the completed application and fee:

(a) A policy and procedures manual containing:

1. Job descriptions for all staff positions.
2. Drug-testing procedures and requirements.

3. A prohibition on the premises against alcohol, illegal drugs, and the use of prescribed medications by an individual other than the individual for whom the medication is prescribed.

4. Policies to support a resident's recovery efforts.

5. A good neighbor policy to address neighborhood concerns and complaints.

(b) Rules for residents.

(c) Copies of all forms provided to residents.

(d) Intake procedures.

(e) Sexual predator and sexual offender registry compliance policy.

(f) Relapse policy.

(g) Fee schedule.

(h) Refund policy.

(i) Eviction procedures and policy.

(j) Code of ethics.

(k) Proof of insurance.

(l) Proof of background screening.

(m) Proof of satisfactory fire, safety, and health inspections.

(4) A certified recovery residence must be actively managed by a certified recovery residence administrator. All applications for certification must include the name of the certified recovery residence administrator who will be actively managing the applicant recovery residence.

(5) Upon receiving a complete application, a credentialing entity shall conduct an onsite inspection of the recovery residence.

(6) All owners, directors, and chief financial officers of an applicant recovery residence are subject to level 2 background screening as provided under chapter 435. A recovery residence is ineligible for certification, and a credentialing entity shall deny a recovery residence's application, if any owner, director, or chief financial officer has been found guilty of, or has entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, any offense listed in s. 435.04(2) unless the department has issued an exemption under s. 397.4872. In accordance with s. 435.04, the department shall notify the credentialing agency of an owner's, director's, or chief financial officer's eligibility based on the results of his or her background screening.

(7) A credentialing entity shall issue a certificate of compliance upon approval of the recovery residence's application and inspection. The certification shall automatically terminate 1 year after issuance if not renewed.

(8) Onsite follow up monitoring of a certified recovery residence may be conducted by the credentialing entity to determine continuing compliance with certification requirements. The

credentialing entity shall inspect each certified recovery residence at least annually to ensure compliance.

(a) A credentialing entity may suspend or revoke a certification if the recovery residence is not in compliance with any provision of this section or has failed to remedy any deficiency identified by the credentialing entity within the time period specified.

(b) A certified recovery residence must notify the credentialing entity within 3 business days after the removal of the recovery residence's certified recovery residence administrator due to termination, resignation, or any other reason. The recovery residence has 30 days to retain a certified recovery residence administrator. The credentialing entity shall revoke the certificate of compliance of any recovery residence that fails to comply with this paragraph.

(c) If any owner, director, or chief financial officer of a certified recovery residence is arrested for or found guilty of, or enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, any offense listed in s. 435.04(2) while acting in that capacity, the certified recovery residence shall immediately remove the person from that position and shall notify the credentialing entity within 3 business days after such removal. The credentialing entity shall revoke the certificate of compliance of a recovery residence that fails to meet these requirements.

(d) A credentialing entity shall revoke a recovery residence's certificate of compliance if the recovery residence provides false or misleading information to the credentialing entity at any time.

(9) A person may not advertise to the public, in any way or by any medium whatsoever, any recovery residence as a "certified recovery residence" unless such recovery residence has first secured a certificate of compliance under this section. A person who violates this subsection commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(10)(a) A certified recovery residence may allow a minor child to visit a parent who is a resident of the recovery residence, provided that a minor child may not visit or remain in the recovery residence between the hours of 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. unless:

1. A court makes a specific finding that such visitation is in the best interest of the minor child; or
2. The recovery residence is a specialized residence for pregnant women or parents whose children reside with them. Such recovery residences may allow children to visit or reside in the residence if the parent does not yet have a time-sharing plan pursuant to s. 61.13, provided that the parent files with the court for establishment of a plan within 14 days of moving into the residence.

(b) A certified recovery residence may not allow a minor child to visit a parent who is a resident of the recovery residence at any time if any resident of the recovery residence is currently required to register as a sexual predator under s. 775.21 or as a sexual offender under s. 943.0435.

History.—s. 2, ch. 2015-100; s. 2, ch. 2017-80.