

Standardized Assessment Mechanism for Residential Services for People with Disabilities

Introduction

The Social Welfare Department launched a “Standardized Assessment Tool for Residential Services for People with Disabilities” (Assessment Tool) to identify People with Disabilities (PWD) with genuine need for residential services and match them with appropriate types of service so as to ensure timely service for needy persons. The Assessment tool was developed, after 2 years of elaborated efforts, by a Task Group comprising multi-disciplinary professionals and parent representatives, and its validity and reliability were established by pilot tests. Development of the Assessment Tool was subject to close scrutiny of the Welfare Panel of the Legislative Council, the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee and parents groups.

With effect from 1 January 2005, all applicants for residential services for mentally/physically handicapped persons must be assessed by the Standardized Assessment Mechanism for Residential Services for People with Disabilities (Standardized Assessment Mechanism) to ascertain their residential services need before they are put on the waiting list/admitted to their required residential service units.

What is “Assessment Tool”?

The Assessment Tool, a structured multi-dimensional assessment instrument, has four domains, i.e. nursing care need, functional impairment, challenging behaviour and family coping, and the needs so identified will be considered against the supportive network of the PWD’s family and community resources available to the PWD. The assessment also provides indication as to how a PWD’s needs could be matched to appropriate types of residential services.

Who should receive assessment under the “Standardized Assessment Mechanism”?

- (a) All mentally/physically handicapped persons newly apply for adult residential services;
- (b) All mentally/physically handicapped persons already on the waiting list for

- adult residential services but have not yet received assessment;
- (c) All mentally/physically handicapped persons currently receiving residential services but require application for other types of residential services due to change of condition.

Who are “Assessors”

Assessors must be registered social workers, enrolled nurses/registered nurses, physiotherapists or occupational therapists who have completed training courses on administering of the Assessment Tool as arranged by the Social Welfare Department. All qualified assessors will be assigned an assessor number for identification purpose.

How assessments be arranged?

Assessments shall be arranged by referring social workers.

For applicants already on the waiting list of residential services before implementation of the Assessment Mechanism, the Central Referral System for Rehabilitation Services of the Social Welfare Department will notify the referring social workers to arrange assessment when these applicants are selected for consideration of residential placement. In case these applicants are assessed to have no residential services need, their names will be deleted from the waiting list but their date of application will be retained. Their names will be returned to the waiting list with the original application date once their residential service needs are confirmed by assessment.

How to lodge appeal against assessment result?

Applicants disagree with their assessment results may lodge an appeal in writing, within six weeks after confirmation of the assessment result, to the Secretariat to the Appeal Board for Standardized Assessment for Residential Services for People with Disabilities (Address : Room 901, 9/F, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen’s Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong)

A Mediation Team comprising social workers and health care professionals will first examine into the areas disagreed and try to resolve them. Where disagreement cannot be resolved, the case will be brought up to the Appeal Board for consideration and final decision.

How the assessment results is handled?

Applicants assessed to have residential service need will be registered on the waiting list in accordance with the types of residential service matched. For those assessed to have no residential services need, the referring social workers will refer them for other appropriate services, such as day training programmes or community support services. Applicants may request for re-assessment should their health deteriorate or family condition change in future warranting residential services.

Fee charging

Free

Enquiry :

Enquiries regarding “Standardized Assessment Mechanism for Residential Services for People with Disabilities” can be directed to the Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services Branch of the Social Welfare Department through the following channels:

Tel no. : 3586 3809 / 3586 3826

Fax no. : 3755 4946

e-mail : rehabenq@swd.gov.hk