



HEALTH CARE
AUTHORITY

Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Kari Armijo, Secretary
Alex Castillo Smith, Deputy Secretary
Kathy Slater Huff, Deputy Secretary
Kyra Ochoa, Deputy Secretary
Dana Flannery, Medicaid Director

Date: February 3, 2025

DDSD-DDW Numbered Memo 2025-03

To: All Developmental Disabilities Waiver Providers

From: Jennifer Rodriguez, Director
Developmental Disabilities Supports Division
Health Care Authority

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jennifer Rodriguez", written over the printed name and title.

Subject: Water Temperature Requirements for Supported Living, Family Living, and Intensive Medical Living

In accordance with national recommendations and water temperature safety guidelines for the community, effective immediately, each Provider Agency of Supported Living, Family Living, and Intensive Medical Living services must ensure that each residence has a water temperature that does not exceed a safe water temperature of 120 degrees Fahrenheit. In addition, each interdisciplinary team must ensure that anyone with a history of being unsafe in or around water while bathing, grooming, etc. or with a history of at least one scalding incident must have a regulated temperature control valve or device installed in the home.

This revised water temperature requirement replaces the 110 degree requirement as defined in Chapter 10 Living Care Arrangement, Section 10.3.7.7 "Requirements for Each Residence" and Chapter 10 Living Care Arrangement, Section 10.3.9.2.1.1.3.c "Home Study" requirements of the July 1, 2024, Developmental Disabilities Waiver Service Standards.

Water Temperature Increase References:

- In 2003, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published the *Environmental Infection Control Guidelines*. These guidelines support having hot water available at or above 120 degrees Fahrenheit to prevent waterborne infections. These guidelines have been updated periodically and continue to support these practices.
 - Access these guidelines at: [Environmental Infection Control Guidelines | Infection Control | CDC](#)
- According to the *Uniform Plumbing Code*, developed and maintained by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, having water