
Life Plan Regulatory Relief : (during the COVID -19 Emergency)

All seven CCO's in the state have been working together during this COVID-19 pandemic and have requested relief from OPWDD/DOH on several requirements. These requests will Care Managers to continue to focus the majority of Their time on what's most important – reaching out and supporting the individuals and families that we support. **Our request for relief on Life Plans will be granted retroactively to March 7, 2020.**

Specifically, this means:

- All Life Plan due dates will be extended. The current Life Plan will remain in effect during the NY State Emergency. You are **not required** to hold Life Plan meetings or develop new annual Life Plans during this time.
- For new enrollees, the initial Life Plan due date will also be extended. Service Authorizations for new enrollees still need to be discussed with the Regional Offices. A Life Plan will not be required but the Regional Office needs to approve and advise what, if any, documentation may be needed in place of a Life Plan.
- Services in alternative sites can be authorized prior to updating the participant's Life Plan. This means that when those we support have a change in location of service (such as we have seen with the DH closures), this can occur without an addendum completed by the Care Manager.
- Once the New York State of Emergency has been lifted, Care Managers will have 60 days to finalize an amended Life Plan to reflect changes made to respond to the crisis. This allows you to continue working on COVID-19 assessments and assisting individuals/families with immediate needs now and addendums to **Life Plans will not be due for 60-days after the state emergency has been lifted.** Changes made to respond to the crisis include areas such as service locations, safeguards, etc.

This same relief was given to Providers in respect to their Staff Action Plans (SAPs). Habilitation Providers will not be required to develop, review, or revise SAPs. The existing Staff Action Plan will remain in effect for the duration of the NY State Emergency and amendments will not be due for 60-days after the state emergency has been lifted.