



Children's Rights Director Regulations 2002 - Consultation Document

Introduction

This consultation document contains the draft Children's Rights Director Regulations 2002. These regulations will in due course set out in some detail the core role and functions of the Children's Rights Director.

The draft regulations are issued for consultation only, and there may be changes to the final version.

Regulatory Context

The regulations are made in exercise of the powers conferred upon the Secretary of State by Paragraph 10(2) of Schedule 1 to the Care Standards Act (CSA) 2000.

The Children's Rights Director will be a senior officer of the National Care Standards Commission, an independent, non-governmental public body established under the CSA to regulate social and health care services previously regulated by local councils and health authorities.

Consultation

The Department of Health is issuing these draft regulations for consultation. It is the Government's intention that everyone with an interest in the regulations should have the opportunity to be involved with this consultation. This consultation document has been published on the Internet, at www.doh.gov.uk/qualityprotects, to ensure the draft regulations are widely accessible. [It has also been sent out in hard copy to a wide variety of organisations, including Local Authorities in England, Health Authorities and key voluntary organisations.] Hard copies of the consultation document are available on request from the Children's Safeguards Unit, Department of Health, Room 109, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG (Email address kathryn.stelfox@doh.gsi.gov.uk).

The consultation period will last for 3 months, to give enough time for interested parties to read and comment on the proposed draft regulations. Responses should be returned to the Department of Health by **11th April 2002**. The contact address can be found at the end of this section.

Comments are invited on all aspects of the proposed regulations. These will be revised in the light of comments received. You are invited to submit your comments on the draft regulations with particular reference to the following issues:

1. Given that the remit of the Children's Rights Director is restricted to the client and patient groups serviced by the National Care Standards Commission, have we achieved the right coverage of issues?

2. The regulations are intended to be as comprehensive as possible. Are there, in your opinion, any key areas that have not been discussed or that have not been covered in sufficient detail?
3. Is there anything else beyond the issues covered in the draft regulations that the Children's Rights Director should be empowered to do to ensure that the National Care Standards Commission safeguards and promotes the rights and welfare of children who are provided with regulated children's services?
4. Is there anything else beyond the issues covered in the draft regulations that the Children's Rights Director should be empowered to do to ensure that the Commission ensures that proper consideration is given to the views of children to whom regulated children's services are provided?

How to respond

You may contact the Department of Health by letter or Email. In order to ensure that we are able to keep track of all the information you send us, would you please provide the following information:

- your name;
- your job/professional role (if applicable);
- your comments on the draft regulations.

Please note that we may not be able to reply to you personally, but all comments will be taken into account as appropriate in preparing the final version of the regulations.

You are welcome to pass this document (and the contact details for the consultation) on to interested colleagues, or to direct them to the web-site (www.doh.gov.uk/qualityprotects) where they may download a copy.

Responses should be returned by 11th April 2002. Please note that responses received after that date are unlikely to be considered.

The postal address is:
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Room 109
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8UG

The Email address is: kathryn.stelfox@doh.gsi.gov.uk