



**NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY
ASSISTANCE**

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David A. Paterson
Governor

Administrative Directive

Section 1

Transmittal:	10-ADM-03
To:	Local District Commissioners
Issuing Division/Office:	Center for Employment and Economic Supports
Date:	April 28, 2010
Subject:	Providing Temporary Assistance Applicants and Recipients with Information Regarding Sexual Assault
Suggested Distribution:	Temporary Assistance Staff Staff Development Coordinators
Contact Person(s):	1-800-343-8859 Temporary Assistance Bureau at Extension 4-9344
Attachments:	
Attachment Available On – Line:	<input type="checkbox"/>

Filing References

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
		§ 351.2(m)	§ SSL 131 (20)		

Section 2

I. Summary

This Administrative Directive (ADM) advises local social services districts (districts) of new legislation that requires districts to provide all Temporary Assistance (TA) applicants and recipients the option to receive information regarding services for victims of sexual assault.

II. Purpose

This ADM informs districts of an amendment to Social Services Law (SSL) §131. These statutory changes require districts to ensure that applicants or recipients who have experienced sexual abuse or assault have the option to receive information about locally available services for sexual assault victims.

III. Background

Chapter 427 of the laws of 2009, amends SSL §131 to include a new subdivision, 20, which requires districts to inform all TA applicants and recipients of their option to receive information regarding locally available services for victims of sexual assault. The intent of this change is to increase outreach and expand access to essential services necessary for victims of sexual assault to overcome the physical, mental and emotional trauma associated with such forms of abuse. Additionally, OTDA will amend 18 NYCRR § 351.2 to include a new subdivision providing regulatory support for the amendment to SSL §131.

IV. Program Implications

Effective March 15, 2010, districts must inform all TA applicants and recipients of their option to receive referral information regarding services for victims of sexual assault. Districts must compile the appropriate referral and contact information for all local programs that provide services to victims of sexual assault and make this information available to any TA applicant or recipient who request it.

V. Required Action

Each district must establish a process to ensure that every applicant and recipient of TA is made aware of their option to receive information regarding services for victims of sexual assault. If requested, the district must provide the TA applicant/recipient with information on all local programs that provide services to victims of sexual assault. This information must, at a minimum, provide:

- a) the addresses and phone numbers of any local hospitals offering sexual assault forensic examiner services certified by the department of health;
- b) the addresses and phone numbers of any local rape crisis centers;
- c) the addresses and phone numbers of any local advocacy, counseling, and hotline services appropriate for victims of sexual assault; and
- d) the New York State Hotline for Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence phone numbers: 1-800-942-6906 or 1-800-818-0656 (TTY)

The following websites contain the information that districts will need to provide to comply with a) and b) above:

- http://www.health.state.ny.us/professionals/protocols_and_guidelines/sexual_assault/docs/protocol_appendix_m.pdf
- <http://nyscasa.org/>
- http://www.health.state.ny.us/community/adults/women/violence/rape_crisis/safe_programs.htm

Note: Districts that do not have local hospitals with forensic examiner services and/or local rape crisis centers must include the address and phone number of the hospital offering forensic examiner services and/or of the rape crisis center that is in closest proximity.

A victim of sexual assault may or may not be a victim of domestic violence. Districts must only refer victims of domestic violence to their domestic violence liaisons and domestic violence providers.

VI. Systems Implications

None

VII. Effective Date

This directive is effective March 15, 2010

Issued By

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Division/Office: Center for Employment and Economic Supports