



Scott Harris, M.D., M.P.H.
STATE HEALTH OFFICER

November 12, 2024

Mr. Scott Logan
Social Security Administration
Office of Income Security Programs
Keys Section
2518 Robert M. Ball Building
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21235

Dear Mr. Logan:

This letter is to certify that programs operated by the Alabama Department of Public Health follow the provisions of 45 CFR Part 1397 – Standard Setting Requirements for Medical and Non-Medical Facilities Where Supplemental Security Income Recipients Reside.

Enclosed are letters from the Alabama Department of Mental Health, the Alabama Department of Youth Services, and the Alabama Department of Human Resources certifying that programs operated by those agencies also comply with the Keys Amendment. Revised standards that have been implemented by each standard-setting authority since our last submission are also enclosed. To our knowledge, there are no other state agencies in Alabama with responsibility for regulating medical or non-medical facilities where Supplemental Security Income recipients reside.

Should you have any additional questions or require more information, please feel free to contact the Bureau of Health Provider Standards at (334) 206-5175.

Sincerely,

Scott Harris, M.D., M.P.H.
State Health Officer

SH/JR/SF
Enclosures



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
RSA UNION BUILDING
100 NORTH UNION STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 301410
MONTGOMERY, AL 36130-1410
WWW.MH.ALABAMA.GOV



Kay Ivey
Governor

Kimberly G. Boswell
Commissioner

October 9, 2024

Jacqueline D. Milledge, Director, MBA, BSN, CPM
Bureau of Health Provider Standards
Alabama Department of Public Health
Post Office Box 303017
Montgomery, AL 36130-3017

Dear Ms. Milledge:

This letter certifies that the Alabaman Department of Mental Health is in compliance with the provisions of Section 1616(e) of the Social Security Act respecting the requirements for facilities in which Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients reside.

Should you have any questions concerning the foregoing, please contact the Office of Certification Administration at (334) 353-9085.

Sincerely,

Kimberly G. Boswell
Commissioner

KGB/bsa

Cc: Collier Tynes Dixon, Chief of Staff



State of Alabama

KAY IVEY
GOVERNOR



STEVEN P. LAFRENIERE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Post Office Box 66
Mt. Meigs, Alabama 36057

October 29, 2024

Jacqueline D. Milledge, MBA, BSN, CPM
Bureau of Health Provider Standards
Alabama Department of Public Health
P.O. Box 303017
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-3017

Dear Ms. Milledge:

Please accept this letter as certification that the Alabama Department of Youth Services is in compliance with the Keys Amendment regulation.

Please let me know if you need further information.

Sincerely,

Steven P. Lafreniere
Executive Director

“Compliance Checked”

T. Dudley Perry, Jr.
General Counsel
Alabama Department of Youth Services

SPL/TDPJr

SUMMARY OF STANDARDS FOR DYS FACILITIES FOR SUPPLEMENTAL INCOME RECIPIENTS

The Keys Amendment, Section 1616(e) of the Social Security Act (42 USCA § 1382e), requires each state to publish summaries of standards for institutions, foster homes, or group living arrangements in which (as determined by the State) a significant number of recipients of supplemental security income benefits resides or is likely to reside. Such standards shall govern admission policies, safety, sanitation, and protection of civil rights.

Standards for all facilities and institutions licensed by DYS are published in the Alabama Administrative Code, available online at:

<http://www.alabamaadministrativecode.state.al.us/docs/ys/index.html>. In addition, the DYS Operations Manual includes standards for DYS institutions and contract facilities covering civil rights, sanitation, admissions, safety, and other needs of individuals, and can be obtained by contacting DYS Legal Division, P.O. Box 66, Mt. Meigs, AL 36059.



Kay Ivey
Governor

State of Alabama
Department of Human Resources

Gordon Persons Building
50 N. Ripley St.
P.O. Box 304000
Montgomery, AL 36130-4000
(334) 242-1310
dhr.alabama.gov



Nancy T. Buckner
Commissioner

October 29, 2024

Jacqueline D. Milledge, MBA, BSN, CPM
Director, Bureau of Health Provider Standards
Alabama Department of Public Health
P.O. Box 303017
Montgomery, AL 36130-3017

RE: Keys Amendment Certification

Dear Ms. Milledge,

In accordance with the Social Security Act (the Keys Amendment), The Department of Human Resources inspects and approves foster care resources for children in foster family homes and residential settings and is in full compliance with said Act. Standards for these homes and residential facilities are contained in the *Minimum Standards for Residential Child Care Facilities*, *Minimum Standards for Child-Placing Agencies*, and the *Minimum standards for Foster Family Homes*. There have not been any changes to the *Minimum Standards for Residential Child Care Facilities* or the *Minimum standards for Child-Placing Agencies* since 2023. There have not been any changes to the *Minimum Standards for Foster Family Homes* since the revision in 2021.

Sincerely,

Nancy T. Buckner
Commissioner

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Bureau of Health
Provider Standards



SOCIAL SECURITY

September 25, 2024

Scott Harris, M.D.
State Health Officer
Department of Public Health
P.O. Box 303017
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-3017

Dear Dr. Scott Harris:

This letter is to remind States that the Governor or their designee must submit an annual certification of compliance with Section 1616(e) of the Social Security Act (the Keys Amendment). The purpose of this statute is to assure the development of State standards for safe and appropriate residential settings as an alternative to institutional living for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients; limit the use of SSI funds for substandard facilities; and publicize the standards and enforcement procedures for these facilities as a means of involving the public in monitoring the standards.

Section 1616(e) requires each State to:

- Designate one or more State or local authorities to establish and enforce standards for residential facilities where significant numbers of SSI recipients reside, or are likely to reside;
- Make annually available for public review a summary of the standards that are developed;
- Make available to any interested individual a copy of such standards along with the enforcement procedures, a list of waivers of such standards, and any violations; and
- Certify compliance with these provisions annually to the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration.

As required by Section 1616(e), we ask that you provide a certification each Federal fiscal year. If your State is in full compliance with this provision, please clearly state so in your certification letter. We would appreciate receiving your fiscal year 2025 certification by January 1, 2025. In addition, please send the certification for all agencies in one letter.

To ensure that our files are up to date, please send us any new or revised standards and enforcement procedures that you may have implemented since your last submission. The certifications, enforcement procedures and State standards are used as a reference source by Federal agencies and a variety of interested parties outside the Federal Government, including researchers.

We are requesting you email a copy of your signed certification letter to Keys.Cert@ssa.gov. A hard copy signed certification letter is no longer required.

Some important reminders on reporting deficient facilities are:

- You are required to report the name and address of any facility that no longer meets State standards and the effective date of the violation to your Social Security Administration (SSA) Regional Office.
- When a deficient facility again meets the standards, you should notify the Regional Office of the effective date of your approval of the facility.

If you do report a deficient facility, please also give the Regional Office the name and social security number of any SSI recipients in the facility.

Remember that you that you can request an electronic boarding home listing (obtained from SSA's State Date Exchange) to help you identify potential candidates for licensing. The listing contains information on specific residence addresses within each State where three or more unrelated SSI recipients reside. It is available upon request to the Regional Office.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and responsiveness. If you or members of your staff have any questions, please have them contact Betsy Blair at Betsy.Blair@ssa.gov.

Sincerely,

Scott Logan

Scott Logan
Keys Section
Office of Income Security Programs