

Placement of Client

Number of Residents

Family care homes do not require licensing under the *Community Care Facility Act* because of the restriction in the number of clients.

The placement of three or more clients in a family care home would contravene legislation and would remove the home from designation as a family care home.

Most family care homes would be limited to one client. However, the placement of a second client in an approved family care home may be approved if, in the opinion of the administering authority, this would be beneficial to the client, the operator is deemed capable of caring for two clients, and the clients agree to the arrangement.

The administering authority must carefully consider the ability of the operator to handle the care needs of each client. Factors that need to be taken into consideration include the operators' physical health, whether they have a spouse or children to assist with the care, and the amount of space in the home.

In cases where extensive care is required, the band community health representative or the Medical Services Branch community nurse should be approached to provide regular medical support to the operator. Consideration may also be given to providing additional home support to an operator supporting a client with extensive care needs through the adult in-home care program, depending upon the requirements of the client and the availability of financial resources.

Relationship of Residents and Operators

The client being placed in a family care home cannot be an immediate family member (i.e., mother, father, daughter, son, grandmother, grandfather) to the operator.

An exception may be made on an interim basis to pay a family member prohibited by this policy only when the health authority has determined there is no qualified and available caregiver to meet a client's needs for one or more of the following reasons:

- rural or remote location.
- cultural barriers.
- language barriers.
- behavioural problems.

In addition to discussing the factors outlined above with the OSIL client or family care home operator, the health authority must assess each case individually and determine that:

- there have been proven attempts to find a caregiver that is not prohibited by this policy
- and all alternative care/support options have been explored; barriers to accessing alternative options have been identified and addressed if possible;
- the client's care plan includes appropriate respite for the family member;
- the client's care plan includes strategies to ensure the client is included in the community and not isolated; and
- in situations where one family member will be providing care/support, it is realistic and appropriate to have only one person meeting the needs of a person with complex care needs.

Lifestyles and Compatibility

The fit between the lifestyle, cultural and religious backgrounds of the client and the operator is the basis for making a placement. The band social development worker, client, and operator need to discuss lifestyle openly prior to the client's admission to the home. The client and operator should also discuss visiting in the home by the client's family and friends.

Behavioural Problems

The decision to place a client with behavioural problems in a family care home needs to be carefully discussed between the band social development worker and the operator.

The operator must be aware that the behaviour may not improve upon placement, and may even deteriorate. However, one of the major advantages of family care homes is that behaviour often improves when the client settles into a normalized family setting.

Safekeeping and Financial Affairs

The band social development worker must discuss the handling of money and safekeeping of valuables with both the client and the operator, prior to placement.

Double Occupancy

Double occupancy may be approved if, in the opinion of the band social development worker, it is in the best interests of the two clients who will share the room.

The clients involved must be in agreement with this arrangement.

Right to Refuse Placement

Both the operator and the client have the right to refuse a placement in a family care home.

