

MEMORANDUM

TO: See Distribution

FROM: Greg J. Davies, Director *GJD*  
Department of Public Utilities

DATE: January 9, 2015

SUBJECT: DPU Rule and Regulation 15-01, Medical Certification Program - Residential  
Water and Sewer Accounts

The attached R&R was published in the Columbus City Bulletin #51 on December 20, 2014 and in Bulletin #52 on December 27, 2014. Its effective date was January 2, 2015.

Rule and Regulation 15-01 has been updated to revise criteria necessary to qualify a Residential Water and Sewer Account as eligible for exemption from disconnection of water service where it would be especially dangerous to the health of a permanent resident of the household as determined by a medical professional.

If you have questions regarding this R&R or regarding its publication in the Columbus City Bulletin, please contact Christina Burden, Policy Management Research and Policy Office at 645-8508.

GJD/ckb

Attachment

Distribution: Water C-list  
DOSD-Admin

pc: D. Blake P. O'Grady  
G. Davies S. Oehler  
J. Deep D. Pettenski  
C. Estep R. Westerfield  
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L. Mohr-Young



**RULE AND REGULATION 15-01**  
**Department of Public Utilities**

**January 2015**

**SUBJECT: MEDICAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM-RESIDENTIAL WATER AND SEWER ACCOUNTS**

Pursuant to the authority granted under Columbus City Codes Chapter 1101, the Director of the Department of Public Utilities hereby adopts, establishes and publishes this rule and regulation to be effective at the earliest date allowed by law. This rule and regulation supersedes Division of Water rule and regulation entitled "Medical Emergency/Residential Accounts", published September 28, 1991 as Rule and Regulation No. 91-5. This rule and regulation is in addition to any established requirements that have not be superseded or rescinded by this or any previous act.

**APPLICATION:**

Any Residential Water and Sewer account located within the City of Columbus distribution system where it is determined that disconnection of water service would be especially dangerous to the health of a permanent resident of a household as determined by a medical professional.

**GENERAL REGULATION:**

If disconnection of water service would be especially dangerous to the health of a permanent resident of a household as determined by a medical professional, the Department of Public Utilities may approve medical certification that will prevent disconnection for a thirty (30) day period.

A medical certification form must be filled out completely and signed by a medical professional. If the occupant is not the owner of the property, the account must either be in the name of the occupant, or written permission from the property owner to make a payment extension must be submitted, with the completed medical certification form. The medical certification form must include the name of the person being certified, a statement that the person is a permanent resident of the household, the certifying medical professional's name, address, and phone number, the diagnosis or nature of the condition, the type of medical equipment that requires a constant supply of tap water, if applicable, and a statement signed by the certifying medical professional that the disconnection of service would be especially dangerous to the health of the person being certified. The Department of Public Utilities reserves its right to request additional documentation to approve medical certification requests.


An approved medical certification will prevent the disconnection of water service for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of the approval by the Department of Public Utilities. There is a limit of two (2) medical certifications per household in any twelve (12) month period. In a case of consecutive medical certification applications, the account must have no past due balances before a second certification will be granted. If payment is not received at the expiration of the certification period, water service will be terminated in accordance with section 1101.03 of the Columbus City Code.

Where the water service is still on, the signed medical certificate must be delivered to and received by the Department of Public Utilities at least 72 hours prior to the turn-off date on the termination notice.




If water service has been turned off, one third (1/3) of the total account balance (including arrearage and amount currently due) must be paid, the medical certificate must be received by the Department of Public Utilities and approved, and the remaining balance will be put on an extension payable in thirty (30) days. Entry into the property may be required for turn on.


APPROVED:

  
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GREG J. DAVIES  
Director  
Department of Public Utilities

12.15.14  
DATE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DAX BLAKE  
Administrator  
Division of Sewerage and Drainage

12-8-14  
DATE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RICHARD C. WESTERFIELD, Ph.D., P.E.  
Administrator  
Division of Water

11-24-14  
DATE

Published in City Bulletin: December 20, 2014

