

**RULE AND REGULATION 15-02**  
**Department of Public Utilities**

**APRIL 2015**

**SUBJECT: MEDICAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM-RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC 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 This rule and regulation is in addition to any established requirements that have not be superseded or rescinded by this or any previous act.

**APPLICATION:**

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

**GENERAL REGULATION:**

If disconnection of electric service would be especially dangerous to the health of the permanent resident of a household as determined by a medical professional, the Department of Public Utilities may approve temporary medical certification that will prevent disconnection for a thirty (30) day period. In certain instances, a permanent medical certification may be approved and renewed every ninety (90) days, or when appropriate, a regulator/limiter may be installed for use of life-supporting equipment. As used herein, the term medical professional includes a licensed physician, physician assistant, clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse practitioner, certified nurse-midwife, or local board of health physician.

A medical certification form must be filled out completely and signed by a medical professional. The 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 constant electric service, and a statement signed by the certifying medical professional that disconnection of service would be especially dangerous to the health of the person being certified. The Department of Public Utilities reserves the right to request additional documentation to approve medical certification requests. Two (2) types of Medical Certification are set forth below:

**TEMPORARY CERTIFICATION**

An approved temporary medical certification may prevent the disconnection of electric service for a period of thirty (30) days. Temporary medical certification will not be approved if there is a delinquent balance on the account more than sixty (60) days old as of the date of the certification. There is a limit of two (2) temporary medical certifications per household in any twelve (12) month period. In the case of consecutive medical certification applications, the account must have no past due balances before a second certification will be granted. If payment for the past due amount is not received prior to the



expiration of the certification period, electric service will be terminated in accordance with section 1160.03 of the Columbus City Code

**PERMANENT CERTIFICATION**

An approved permanent medical certification must be re-certified every ninety (90) days. The customer must enter into an agreement to pay at least one-third (1/3) of the total amount due each month and maintain these payments as determined by the Department of Public Utilities. If the agreement is not met, service will be subject to termination. When appropriate, the Department of Public Utilities may install a current regulator/limiter for customers with permanent medical certification which will provide electrical power for the life-supporting medical equipment only. An installation fee and trip charge may be applied to the electric account for installation of this device.

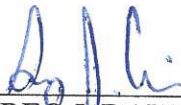
**DELIVERY OF MEDICAL CERTIFICATE**

Where the electric service is still on, the signed medical certificate must be delivered to and received by the Department of Public Utilities at least three (3) business days prior to the turn-off date on the termination notice in order to avoid service termination.


**RESTORATION OF SERVICE**

If electric 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.

APPROVED:

  
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GREG J. DAVIES  
Director  
Department of Public Utilities

4/2/15  
DATE

  
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JOSEPH A. LOMBARDI  
Administrator  
Division of Power

3-31-15  
DATE

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