

Rick Scott
Governor

**NOTICE OF CHANGE TO RESPITE SERVICE AUTHORIZATION AND
CREATION OF RESPITE POOL**

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The Agency for Persons with Disabilities has reviewed the usage of Respite services. This review indicated that only 50% of authorized Respite services are actually used. The Agency recognizes that some individual's Respite services are saved for unexpected occasions. This is to insure an uninterrupted continuation of services should anything happen to the individual's primary caregiver.

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However, approximately nineteen million dollars authorized for Respite services were never accessed in the previous fiscal year. Recognizing the varying and unexpected needs for Respite services, the Agency has decided to create a pool for Respite services.

Pursuant to the authority in chapter 393.0661, Florida Statutes, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities is modifying authorized Respite Service Authorizations by 50% effective September 1, 2011. At the same time, the Agency is creating a "Respite Pool" to provide individuals with the opportunity to continue to access additional respite services, if needed. Also, the Agency has been developing additional Respite resources in some areas, such as free monthly respite events.

To access the Respite Pool, individuals may contact their Waiver Support Coordinator when Respite services are needed. Respite services that remain within the previously authorized amount will not require an additional crisis application.

Your new cost plan with a 50% change in the authorized amount of Respite services will be effective on September 1, 2011. Your Respite amount will be calculated using your July 1, 2011 amount, adjusted for usage and annualized for the remaining ten months of the fiscal year.

We encourage you to immediately contact your Waiver Support Coordinator to discuss this information and to learn your revised, authorized Respite amount. Your Waiver Support Coordinator can assist you in explaining this change and the process for accessing additional Respite services, should that need arise.

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities is committed to protecting your health and safety. Additional information about Respite Resources can be found on the Agency's website at <http://apd.myflorida.com>. You may also contact your Waiver Support Coordinator or your local Agency for Persons with Disabilities office if you have questions.