DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Olympia, Washington

TITLE: DAMAGE REIMBURSEMENT

Authority: Chapter 71A RCW Developmental Disabilities
Chapter 388-820 WAC Community Residential Services and Supports

BACKGROUND
The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) contracts with service providers to offer residential supports to eligible persons living in the community.

PURPOSE
This policy describes the circumstances under which a contracted residential service provider may seek reimbursement from a client for damages inflicted upon the provider’s property and/or the personal property of the provider’s staff.

SCOPE
This policy applies to all DDD certified and contracted residential service providers and their employees, and the State Operated Living Alternatives (SOLA).

DEFINITIONS
CPI means Clothing and Personal Incidentals allowance.

SSI means Supplemental Security Income.

POLICY
Contracted residential service providers and staff may seek reimbursement for damages caused by a client as long as damages are not already reflected in the provider’s administrative nonstaff rate.

A. In requesting client reimbursement for any damage, the service provider must disclose the existence of any applicable insurance coverage. Applicable provider insurance must be
considered and the amount of client reimbursement requested may be limited to the amount of the insurance deductible.

B. Clients must not be coerced to provide reimbursement.

C. Unless the damage is a result of an accident or an isolated incident, a reimbursement request must be accompanied by a written behavior support plan (BSP) developed to respond to the behavior(s) which resulted in the damage.

D. The request and the BSP, when applicable, must be submitted to the DDD Regional Administrator or designee in an approved format and include the signatures of the client and his/her legal representative, if applicable.

E. If the client has no legal representative, DDD may request a parent, sibling, or other family member (or an advocate if no family member is involved) to sign and approve the request for damage reimbursement. The DDD case resource manager (CRM) and the service provider must also sign the request.

F. The request for reimbursement must reference the relevant incident report. Unless it is an imminent health or safety concern, at least one written estimate must be attached (the client, his/her legal representative, or the CRM may request one additional estimate). The written estimate must be from either: (a) a licensed contractor; (b) a bonded service repairperson; or (c) a retail store carrying the item to be replaced. The amount of reimbursement must not exceed the estimate or the replacement value of the article, whichever is less.

G. The total amount of reimbursement may be divided into monthly payments if the service provider, the client or his/her legal representative, and the CRM agree to the amount of each payment and the total number of months over which the payments will be spread. The monthly payment must not reduce the CPI below the basic DSHS standard in any month. Total client savings must not be reduced below the current SSI standard monthly income amount.

H. The service provider must maintain complete reimbursement and payment records, including receipts for payment of damage repairs, receipts for reimbursement amounts received from the client, and insurance payments.

I. The service provider may request reimbursement from DDD if the client is unable or unwilling to pay for damages.
J. The Regional Administrator or designee must review and approve all requests made under this policy.

**EXCEPTIONS**

The Regional Administrator may approve exceptions to the provisions of this policy based on information submitted on DSHS Form 05-010, *Rule Exception Request*.

**SUPERSESSION**

DDD Policy 6.16
Issued January 1, 2002

DDD Policy 6.16
Issued June 29, 1993

Division Policy Directive: 11.01
Issued December 1992

Approved:  /s/ Linda Rolfe
Date: 11/1/2003
Director, Division of Developmental Disabilities