

Stop the Cuts Campaign
(Address redacted due to HIPPA regulations)

April 10, 2008

Mr. Steve Norris, Deputy Commissioner
TN DMRS
Andrew Jackson Building, 15th Floor
500 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Mr. Norris,

This is to inform you that your circle of support met today and determined that since your salary is garnered from state and federal funds administered by the state of Tennessee, you are unfortunately subject to all current and future policy decisions of the Division of Mental Retardation and Bureau of TennCare. As such, it was necessary for us to amend your independent living plan to include the following changes:

1. You will need to have another roommate. (We consider your wife to be a natural support and as such cannot be counted as a roommate). We will notify you as soon as we identify a compatible male service recipient who is ready to take up residence with you. If your current home will not accommodate an additional person, we will make arrangements for you, your natural support, and your new roommate to move into a three-bedroom apartment available at fair market rate,
2. We have not been able to locate a new behavior analyst to replace the one who gave notice to DMRS due to reductions in her caseload. As such, your natural support will now be responsible for forwarding to us the daily notes for your smoking and drinking cessation programs.
3. We have had to cancel your memberships at the gym and country club because these are not allowable expenses under TN Finance and Administration rules and regulations.
4. Using the new protocols we have determined that your current employment does not meet the definition of medical necessity. Please provide us with evidence that you are making progress as further justification for your use of state and federal funds to maintain your employment program or we will have to deny your access to this service.
5. Finally, your retirement account is now being reduced by 6.1% on a monthly basis until the current funding crisis is resolved. However, please be advised that the overall finances of Tennessee are now being adversely affected by the economy and you may have to wait a very long time for these changes to be reversed.

You have 15 days to file an appeal of any and all of these decisions. If the appeals lines are busy when you try to call or fax your appeal letter, just leave a message and we are sure they will get back to you in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

The Stop the Cuts
Circle of Support

P.S. In addition to the daily notes, please have your natural support submit the mileage logs verifying that you are limiting your travel to no more than 20 miles per day.