



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH
Commissioner

Tel: 617-624-6000
www.mass.gov/dph

To: Sober Homes
From: Monica Bharel, MD, MPH
CC: Marylou Sudders
Date: April 20, 2016
Re: Voluntary Certification of Alcohol and Drug Free Housing

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to fight the opioid crisis. As an Alcohol and Drug Free House (ADF), you play a crucial role in an individual's long term recovery.

This letter is to provide notice that effective **September 1, 2016**, state agencies and their vendors shall only be able to refer clients to certified ADF homes. In order to assure that there are a sufficient number of beds for clients in need, MASH is guaranteeing that any home that submits their application by **July 15, 2016** and meets certification standards will be certified by the September 1st deadline. Any home not certified by September 1, 2016 will not be able to accept clients from state agencies until certified.

As you are likely aware, beginning in January 2016, the Certifying Vendor, Recovery Homes Collaborative, began certifying ADF Housing operators. The Certifying Body will adhere to the nationally recognized standards and practices that:

- Uphold industry best practices and support a safe, healthy, and effective recovery environment;
- Evaluate the ability of the Operator to support residents in their recovery;
- Provide for appropriate training and satisfactory completion of training for operators and staff;
- Protect occupants of ADF housing against unreasonable and unfair practices in setting and collecting rent payments; and
- Verify good standing with regard to local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and ordinances including maximum occupancy, fire safety and sanitation.

An up-to-date list of certified ADF houses with contact information, the application form with instructions, the Sober Housing Standards, the grievance form with instructions and vendor contact information are available on the MASH (<http://www.mashsoberhousing.org/>) website. A link to the webpage is posted on the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services website (<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/substance-abuse/>) and through the substance abuse treatment Helpline (<http://helpline-online.com/>) for state agencies and other interested parties.

The application and list of currently certified houses can be found at <http://mashsoberhousing.org/>