

ACTION REQUIRED

AB 620 (Buchanan), Chapter 674, Statutes of 2013

Affects: Adult Community Care Facilities and Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly

Subject: Health and Care Facilities: Missing Patients and Participants

Summary: AB 620 requires community care facilities providing adult residential care or offering adult day programs and residential care facilities for the elderly to develop and comply with an absentee notification plan for each client or resident for the purpose of addressing issues that arise when a client or resident is missing from the facility.

Implementation: These statutory requirements are effective January 1, 2014, and the Community Care Licensing Division shall implement as follows:

Every licensee of an Adult Residential Facility, Social Rehabilitation Facility, Adult Residential Facility for Persons with Special Health Care Needs, Adult Day Program and Residential Care Facility for the Elderly shall develop and comply with an absentee notification plan for each client or resident to address issues that arise when a client or resident is missing from the facility. For Community Care Facilities, this plan is part of the Needs and Services Plan. For Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly, this plan is part of the resident's written record of care.

The plan shall include and be limited to a requirement that the administrator of the facility, or his or her designee, inform the client's/resident's authorized representative, if any, when that client/resident is missing from the facility, and the circumstances in which local law enforcement must be notified.

If a client/resident is missing from the facility, the administrator of the facility, or his or her designee, shall:

- notify the client's/resident's authorized representative
- notify local law enforcement under the circumstances specified in the absentee notification plan

Enforcement Procedures:

Licensees found not to have included the provisions above in the Adult Community Care Facility Needs and Service plan or the Residential Care Facility for the Elderly written record of care, or not to have complied with the required absentee notification plan, shall be cited under the following applicable statute:

- Community Care Facilities Act, Health and Safety Code section 1507.15.
- Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly Act, Health and Safety Code section 1569.317.