

November 10, 2011

Dear Interested Parties:

On November 8, 2011, the public voted [Initiative 1163](#) (I-1163) into law. The new law relates to requirements for long-term care worker training, background checks, and certification as a home care aide. The new requirements take effect January 7, 2012.

The initiative requires the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to develop the curriculum for training and provide fingerprint-based background checks for each applicant. It requires the Department of Health to certify long-term care workers as home care aides and regulate the profession.

Beginning January 7, 2012, most new direct care workers, now called long-term care workers, must take 75 hours of training within 120 days of hire. Most long-term care workers must also become [certified home care aides](#) within 150 days of hire.

Exemptions

Workers holding a current Department of Health (DOH) credential such as registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, certified nursing assistants, occupational therapists, physical therapists, or fully trained long-term care workers employed in 2011 are exempt from the 75 hour training and certification.

Community residential service providers are not required to obtain the FBI background check, training or certification until January 1, 2016. Community residential services providers include all Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) supported living providers with the exception of supported living providers who are also licensed as a boarding home or adult family home provider. Community residential service providers also include DDD companion homes, DDD alternative living and licensed residential homes for children.

Training

The [DSHS Home and Community Services Division \(HCS\)](#) must approve both the curriculum and the instructors. Instructor qualifications vary depending on which type of training they teach. The link above for the DSHS web-site is not active at this time but will be available soon. Please keep checking it for updates.

Each long-term care worker hired after January 7, 2012, must complete 75 hours of training within 120 days of hire. This training will cover:

- Providing basic care
- Topics unique to the population served

Certification

Within 150 days of hire, long-term care workers hired after January 7, 2012, must be certified as home care aides. They must complete the training, apply to the Department of Health, and complete the home care aide certification examination.

Prometric, an independent testing company, will administer the exam. Applicants must apply directly to [Prometric](#) to schedule the exam location and time. Testing sites are available throughout the state.

Background Checks

All long-term care workers hired after January 7, 2011 must submit to a DSHS fingerprint-based background check. Background checks will be provided to DOH to review as part of the certification process.

Informational Webinars

DOH and DSHS will join together to offer informational webinars from 9:00 a.m. to noon on the following dates:

November 28, 2011

December 9, 2011

December 14, 2011

More information will be available soon on the DSHS web-site.

For more information on initiative 1163, please visit DOH's [Home Care Aide Web site](#), the [DSHS Web site](#), or contact us at Homecareaiders@doh.wa.gov.

Please join our [interested parties list](#) to receive email notifications about home care aides.