

Nursing Home and Residential Care Home Minimum Temperature

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Connecticut state legislation enacted over the last two sessions has modified the minimum temperature standard for both nursing homes and residential care homes. State statute now allows for a minimum temperature of **71 degrees Fahrenheit** in both settings. While the residential care home statute is straight forward, the nursing home statute references the federal “comfortable and safe temperature standards” and that federal minimum is 71 degrees. While the public health code has not yet been revised to reflect these changes, the statutory references below provide the necessary information.

Nursing Home Standard

In 2010, *An Act Concerning Revisions to Public Health Related Statutes and the Establishment of the Health Information Technology Exchange of Connecticut* enacted the following:

Sec. 63. Section 19a-522a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

A chronic and convalescent nursing home or a rest home with nursing supervision may maintain temperatures in resident rooms and other areas used by residents at such facilities at levels that are lower than minimum temperature standards prescribed in the Public Health Code provided temperature levels at such facilities comply with the comfortable and safe temperature standards prescribed under federal law pursuant to 42 CFR 483.15(h)(6)*. In accordance with section 19a-36, the Commissioner of Public Health shall amend the Public Health Code in conformity with the provisions of this section.

*Link to the federal standard in 42 CFR 483.15(h)(6): <http://cfr.vlex.com/vid/483-15-quality-life-19811607>

Residential Care Home Standard

Section 56 of Public Act 11-242, *An Act Concerning Various Revisions to Public Health Related Statutes*:

Sec. 56. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2011*) (a) A residential care home that is colocated with a chronic and convalescent nursing home or a rest home with nursing supervision may request permission of the Department of Public Health to meet the requirements of section 19-13-D6(j) of the Public Health Code concerning attendants in residence from 10: 00 p. m. to 7: 00 a. m. through the use of shared personnel.

(b) A residential care home shall maintain temperatures in resident rooms and all other areas used by residents at the minimum temperature of seventy-one degrees Fahrenheit.

(c) A residential care home shall ensure that the maximum time span between a resident's evening meal and breakfast does not exceed fourteen hours unless a substantial bedtime nourishment is offered by the residential care home.

(d) On and after July 1, 2011, the Department of Public Health shall no longer (1) require that a person seeking a license to operate a residential care home supply to the department a certificate of physical and mental health, signed by a physician, at the time of an initial or subsequent application for licensure; and (2) approve the time scheduling of regular meals and snacks in residential care homes.

(e) In accordance with section 19a-36 of the general statutes, the Commissioner of Public Health shall amend the Public Health Code in conformity with the provisions of this section.