



Ms. Dorothy A. Whitehead, Owner/Administrator  
Ms. Donna McLean, Administrator  
Donald Whitehead  
517 South Ninth Street  
Youngwood, Pennsylvania 15697

RE: Whitehead Personal Care Home II  
Certificate #: 428140

Dear Ms. Whitehead and Ms. McLean:

Thank you for your request for a waiver of 55 Pa.Code Ch. 2600 (relating to personal care homes). You have requested a waiver of 55 Pa.Code § 2600.54(a) (relating to qualifications for direct care staff persons) for [REDACTED]

Your waiver request is being returned for additional information. The purpose of § 2600.54(a) is to assure qualified staff provide services to personal care home residents. The direct care staff members of the personal care home must be able to understand and meet the personal care home licensing regulations.

In accordance with 55 Pa.Code § 2600.54(a), qualified direct care staff persons shall have a high school diploma, GED diploma, or active registry on the Pennsylvania nurse aide registry list. The submitted documentation is not an acceptable alternative to the GED/non-US high school education as listed below. The Department of Human Services encourages [REDACTED] to seek educational testing and to then re-submit documentation substantiating [REDACTED] assessed educational level.

Other possible alternatives to the GED/non-US high school education which may be considered through the waiver process include:

1. An individual may complete the English Literacy portion of the GED.
2. An individual may complete the Test for Basic Adult Level of Education (TABE) or the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS). A grade level equivalency of 12.9 on the TABE or CASAS is needed in order to be recognized as a literacy alternative to a US diploma; the documentation will indicate that the individual has "completed adult secondary education".
3. An individual may seek literacy testing through a careerlink or job placement service center.
4. A three-year transcript which lists the specific courses taken to earn the diploma or degree (including dates of completion).

5. Documentation from a credential evaluation service recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Education substantiating [REDACTED] education. A list of recognized service providers is located at [www.naces.org/members.htm](http://www.naces.org/members.htm).

If you have any questions regarding the waiver process, you may contact the Operator Support Hotline at telephone number (866) 503-3926.

Sincerely,

Tara Pride  
Director of Regulatory Implementation