

(was MCCMH Policy 7-02-090)

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Chapter: **ADMINISTRATION**  
Title: **PROHIBITION AGAINST DENIAL OF SERVICES DUE TO INABILITY TO PAY**

Prior Approval Date: N/A  
Current Approval Date: 8/27/02

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director Date

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**I. Abstract**

This policy establishes standards and procedures of the Macomb County Community Mental Health Board (MCCMH) to ensure that consumers are not denied services based on inability to pay.

**II. Application**

This policy shall apply to all directly-operated and contract network providers of the MCCMH Board.

**III. Policy**

It is the policy of the MCCMH Board that consumers shall not be denied services based on inability to pay.

**IV. Definitions**

A. Responsible Party

The individual who signs a fee agreement who is held financially liable for the assessed service fee and is obligated to provide any required information to all third party payors and cooperate fully with them. The responsible party may be the consumer, his/her legally empowered guardian, his/her spouse, or his/her parent (if the is a minor).

**V. Standards**

A. MCCMH providers shall not deny services to MCCMH consumers because the responsible party, whether the individual or another, is unable to pay for the service.

## **VI. Procedures**

- A. If a consumer expresses concerns about the ability to pay the service fee, the provider's clinician shall advise the consumer or his/her responsible party, if applicable, to discuss the matter with the Account Clerk. The clinician shall inform the provider's accounting clerk of the consumer's concern.
- B. If the responsible party does not accept the service fee or feels that he/she cannot pay it, the responsible party shall obtain a Financial Liability Determination Hearing in accordance with the procedures set forth in MCCMH MCO Policy 7-001, "Determination of Financial Liability."
- C. If the responsible party refuses to pay the service fee but does not dispute it, the MCCMH Deputy Director, together with the MCCMH Director of Behavioral Health, or his/her designee, shall determine the circumstances under which services may continue pursuant to MCCMH MCO Policy 7-001.

## **VII. References / Legal Authority**

- A. MCL 330.1208; MSA 14.800(208)
- B. MCL 330.1808; MSA 14.800(808)
- C. MCCMH MCO Policy 7-001, "Determination of Financial Liability"
- D. MCCMH MCO Policy 9-605, "Bill of Rights / Bill of Responsibilities"

## **VIII. Exhibits**

- A. None.