



**Date:** September 29, 2023

**To:** HSD Adult Foster Home Licensees  
Community Mental Health Programs

**From:** Connie Rush, Mental Health Licensing & Certification Manager

**Subject:** AFH Home Alone Variance

During the public health emergency, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) paused the option to request variances allowing residents to remain alone in an AFH licensed by OHA for up to four hours. With the end of the public health emergency, OHA has determined it is safe to resume this option. reviewed and modified the home alone variance to ensure the health, safety and well-being of residents.

### Why is this happening?

The Oregon Health Authority reviewed and modified the home alone variance to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of residents. The purpose of the home alone variance is to provide greater freedoms and independence to residents who have demonstrated they are able to independently perform safety and self-care skills.

### What you need to do?

Complete the Mental Health Adult Foster Home - Home Alone Variance Request form in its entirety. Submit the completed form along with a copy of the resident's current person-centered service plan, residential care plan, and all safety plans to your County Mental Health Representative.

All home alone variances requests must be related to a specific resident, be completed in their entirety, and approved by the appropriate CMHP and the Division prior to implementation. All home alone variance requests must include a copy of the resident's current person-centered service plan, residential care plan, and all safety plans. Incomplete variances will be denied. Home alone variances may not be used for the provider's operational needs.

## Responsibilities

- No more than one resident may be home alone at any one time without the provider or a caregiver present.
- Residents must not be left home alone for a period of more than 4 in a 24-hour period.
- Residents must not be left home alone between the hours of 11:00pm and 6:00am.
- Residents must not be responsible for the care of another resident.
- Residents must be provided with adequate information to know when, where, and how to reach the provider or a specific caregiver in an emergency.
- The provider or a specific caregiver must be available to immediately respond to a resident in the event of an emergency.

## Questions

If you have any questions, please contact your assigned compliance specialist. Thank you for your continued support of Oregon's behavioral health system and the services you provide.