

Maryland Office of People's Counsel

ACTION ALERT

PSC Restrictions on Utility Service Terminations Medical Certification Regulation Proposal to Add "Nurse Practitioners" To List of Medical Professionals

On July 14, the Public Service Commission (PSC) Staff submitted a proposal to the PSC to add "nurse practitioners" to the list of medical professionals who are permitted to sign medical certifications to an electric or gas utility in support of a temporary stay on utility service termination. At the present time, only physicians are permitted to certify that a utility customer has a serious illness such that loss of gas or electric service would be especially dangerous to the health of the person, aggravate an existing serious illness or prevent the use of life-support equipment.

The limitation of the certifier to physicians only has been a concern for several years, particularly as the delivery models for health care have changed. Nurse practitioners and physician assistants have become increasingly important in the direct delivery of health care, and in some settings, it can be difficult to get a physician certification in a timely manner.

While the PSC Staff has made the request, the Commission has not yet responded or established a rulemaking docket. However, if you are interested in supporting a rulemaking to adopt this change, you can submit a letter to the Commission:

David J. Collins, Executive Secretary
Public Service Commission
6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202

Reference: Mail Log No. 156608
Proposed Revision of COMAR 20.31.03.01 and .03

OPC will send another alert if the PSC issues a Rulemaking Notice

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