

**Department for Children and Families***Economic Services Division*

280 State Drive

Waterbury, VT 05671-1020

*Agency of Human Services*

[fax] 802-241-0460

[toll free] 800-775-0506

Dear Hotel/Motel Management,

In an effort to continue communicating and setting expectations for hotels and motels engaging in the General Assistance Emergency Program please find below information on a part of the rule that Economic Services will be implementing when needed. This letter serves as notice of the State's right, under General Assistance Program rule 2650.1, to withhold emergency housing assistance payments to your establishment if your establishment violates any applicable laws.

General Assistance Program rule 2650.1 states:

*Persons who provide lodging to emergency housing assistance recipients must hold a lodging license issued by the Vermont Department of Health. These persons must comply with all applicable laws and rules, including but not limited to the Licensed Lodging Establishment Rule and the Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code. The Department may withhold full or partial payment to any person who violates any law or rule or whose license is suspended, revoked, expired, or otherwise invalid. Specifically, the Department may withhold full or partial payment to persons to whom the Department of Health has issued a conditional license, abatement order, warning letter, or other notice of violation. Likewise, the Department may withhold full or partial payment to persons who have received notices from other government agencies that indicate that the person has violated a law or rule. Once the Department is satisfied that the person is complying with the law, the Department will begin or resume payments at the agreed-upon rate for lodging provided after the violation ended. The Department may provide all, some, or none of the payments withheld based on the nature and extent of the legal violations and the effects those violations had on emergency housing assistance recipients.*

Violations which may result in the State withholding payment include, but are not limited to:

- Health, safety, or accessibility violations
- Noncompliance with lawful requests from law enforcement or first responders
- Fraudulent activity, including moving emergency housing assistance recipients to an unauthorized hotel/motel
- Discrimination

If the State has information that your establishment is in violation of any applicable laws, you will receive a separate letter outlining the specific violation(s), the amount of payment to be withheld, and the actions you must take to come back into compliance.





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If you have any questions about the State's process for withholding payment, please contact our housing unit's management team at: [AHS.DCFESDGAHManagement@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.DCFESDGAHManagement@vermont.gov)

Thank you again for your continued partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Miranda Gray".

Miranda Gray  
DCF Deputy Commissioner

