



## INFORMATION BULLETIN

### SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR SENIORS

**(NOT LICENSED UNDER THE COMMUNITY CARE FACILITIES ACT)**

**ISSUED JULY 17, 2000**

The City has received and processed numerous proposals involving supportive housing for seniors, also referred to in the City's zoning by-law 8000 as congregate housing or boarding homes for seniors. There are a number of issues that operators of such housing need to understand prior to entering into this type of business. These are matters that are not regulated by the City, but that are identified as a service to the community.

**PLEASE NOTE: All references to Licensing mean a licence under the Community Care Facilities Act**

**FACILITIES REQUIRING LICENSING:**

- Those that provide 'care' to more than two people
- "Care" is defined under the Community Care Facilities Act and is clarified below in this document.

**FACILITIES NOT REQUIRING LICENSING:**

- Provide no 'care'
- Care for one or two people
- Care for more than two people, but the care is provided by qualified care givers other than the accommodation/ support provider
- Provides accommodation and/ or support to the number of residents allowed by local bylaws
- Provides accommodation to more than two residents requiring scheduled 'care', if the 'care' is provided by a qualified outside agency

**CLARIFYING SUPPORT AND CARE**

**Support can include:**

- 24 hour nonprofessional staff and emergency response
- Meals
- Housekeeping and laundry services
- Transportation, shopping and errand services
- Information and support for family and friends

**Care:**

Means responsibility for the safety and well-being of individuals in care has been transferred, at least in part, from the individual to the care provider and includes:

- Bathing, dressing, toileting, transferring, ambulating, eating and socializing (cont'd▼ )

- Medication - any interactions (storing, bringing, taking pills away, reminders to take their medications, etc.)
- Care coordination
- Supervision and direction
- Professional care (RN, RPN, OT)

**POTENTIAL RISKS INVOLVED IN PROVIDING UNLICENSED SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**

- The legal differences between 'support' and 'care' are stringent and unless the manager/operator is aware of these differences, the boundaries can be easily crossed.
- If these boundaries are crossed and 'care' is provided to more than two residents, resulting in detrimental effects to one of these individuals, the manager/operator can be held legally liable.
- If an unlicensed facility is found to be providing 'care' for more than two of the residents, the manager/operator can be ordered to either reduce the number of residents requiring 'care', or begin the proceedings to license their facility according to the Ministry of Health regulations and the Community Care Facilities Act .

**SUGGESTIONS FOR POTENTIAL MANAGER/OPERATOR OF UNLICENSED SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**

**Although not required:**

- First Aid Training
- CPR Training
- Criminal Record Check

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE LICENSING STAFF AT THE CENTRAL  
OKANAGAN COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES AT 1340 ELLIS STREET IN  
KELOWNA . (TEL. 868-7835)**