

ORDINANCE 9704 (NEW SERIES)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RELATING TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES CHARGES AND FEES AND THE GENERAL RELIEF PROGRAM

The Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego ordains as follows:

Section 1. The Board of Supervisors finds and determines that there is a need to set rates of charge for health care rendered by public health agencies; to provide temporary relief and support to indigent residents of the County as authorized under California law; and to periodically review the rates and services to assure that rates are commensurate to actual costs and that services for indigent care are clear and understandable. This ordinance will allow the County to continue to charge fees for health care that reflect costs and to clarify certain policies for the General Relief program.

Section 2. Section 238 is hereby added to the San Diego County Administrative Code Article XV-B to read as follows:

SEC. 238. RESPONSIBILITY FOR COST

Except as otherwise provided by law or by contract all aid rendered shall be a charge against the patient, the patient's spouse, or the patient's parents when the patient is a minor, and they shall be jointly and severally liable to pay the costs thereof. Parents shall not be liable for care of children 15 years of age or older living separate and apart from the parents and managing their own financial affairs unless such parents have requested or consented to such care of their child or children.

Section 3. Section 246 of the San Diego County Administrative Code – Article XV-B is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 246. COUNTY SERVICE AREAS 17 AND 69 NON-DISTRICT RESIDENT AMBULANCE FEES

The following fees shall be charged to non-district residents of County Service Areas 17 and 69 for ambulance services by County Service Area 17 and 69 providers:

Advanced Life Support Transport ... \$820.00

Basic Life Support Transport ... \$720.00

Non-Transport (treat & release) ... \$150.00

Mileage ... \$14.00/mile (minimum 1 mile)

Oxygen ... \$65.00

Night Charge (1900 - 0700 hours) ... \$40.00

Section 4. Section 248 of the San Diego County Administrative Code – Article XV-B is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 248. TARGETED CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES FEES - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY.

(a) (no change)

(b) (no change)

Section 5. Section 249 to the San Diego County Administrative Code – Article XV-B is hereby deleted.

Section 6. Section 257 of the San Diego County Administrative Code – Article XV-C is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 257. ESTABLISHMENT OF GENERAL RELIEF PROGRAM.

This article establishes the San Diego County General Relief Program, to provide temporary relief and support in the amount authorized by the Board, to indigent residents of the County as authorized under the California Welfare and Institutions Code. Aid shall be provided in-kind or in cash or any combination of in-kind and cash aid. The value of any in-kind aid that is made available shall be deducted from the cash aid payment. General Relief shall be granted only to indigent residents of the County meeting the property limitations and other requirements set forth in this Article. General Relief shall be granted only after the filing of an application and all General Relief paid in cash shall be a repayable obligation.

Section 7. Section 262 of the San Diego County Administrative Code – Article XV-C is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 262. PERSONAL PROPERTY LIMITS, EXCEPTIONS.

(a) No General Relief shall be granted to an applicant or recipient household owning personal property in the form of negotiable assets with a value of \$5 or more. For the purpose of this subsection, assets include, but are not limited to, cash, savings and checking accounts, securities, negotiable instruments, life insurance with cash surrender value, and other evidence of indebtedness, such as notes, mortgages, and deeds of trust, or other liquid resources. For recipients participating in direct deposit, the minimum balance required by the financial institution for purposes of retaining a bank account shall be exempt from consideration when determining the recipient's property limit.

Section 8. Section 265 of the San Diego County Administrative Code – Article XV-C is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 265. CITIZENSHIP AND LAWFUL ALIEN STATUS.

No General Relief shall be granted to an applicant or recipient household unless the applicant or recipient is (1) a United States citizen, (2) if not a citizen, lawfully admitted to permanent residence in the United States. This does not apply to dependent children of the court.

Section 9. Section 265.5 of the San Diego County Administrative Code – Article XV-C is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 265.5. SUPPLEMENTAL BOARD AND CARE PAYMENTS.

The Director shall promulgate regulations and procedures to implement a county discretionary supplemental board and care payment program for eligible General Relief recipients. The Director

shall require that all applicants and recipients for supplemental board and care payments meet all existing General Relief eligibility, property and income requirements. The Director shall also require applicants and recipients for supplemental board and care payments to supply medical verification of disability and be certified by the Agency as requiring supervised board and care. Supplemental board and care payments shall be paid directly to the board and care vendor with the exception of a maximum \$25 cash payment for personal needs paid directly to the recipient. Supplemental board and care payments shall only be made to licensed board and care vendors. Recipients of supplemental board and care payments shall not be eligible for the General Relief program until they have been released from the board and care facility.

Section 10. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its adoption. Within fifteen (15) days after the date of adoption of this ordinance, a summary shall be published once with the names of those members voting for and against the same in a newspaper of general circulation published in San Diego County.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of February 2005.