



April 4, 2022

Dear Stakeholder,

The Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Program's (DDAP) recovery house licensure program is live as of December 11, 2021. You can find details about recovery house licensing, including a link to the published regulations in the *Pennsylvania Code & Bulletin*, on DDAP's website: <https://www.ddap.pa.gov/Licensing/Pages/Licensing.aspx>

The purpose of this letter is to remind all recovery houses in Pennsylvania, as well as entities who refer individuals to recovery houses, of several requirements of the recovery house law (Act 59 of 2017):

Requirement to obtain a license

Recovery houses must obtain a license from DDAP if:

- (1) they are receiving federal or state funding,
- (2) they are receiving referrals from publicly-funded facilities, **and/or**
- (3) they are receiving referrals for individuals whose substance use disorder (SUD) treatment is funded with federal or state funding.

Recovery houses that do not receive public funding are not required to obtain a license, but may choose to do so to be eligible for public funding or referrals in the future.

Referral requirements

- **State or county courts** must give first consideration to recovery houses that are licensed by DDAP when making residential recommendations for individuals under their supervision.
- **Treatment providers** making recovery house referrals for publicly-funded clients must refer to recovery houses that are licensed by DDAP.
- Any **state agency** or **state-funded facility** making recovery house referrals must refer to recovery houses that are licensed by DDAP. For example, this may include an SUD treatment facility that receives funding from their Single County Authority, Managed Care Organization, or a grant from a state agency. It also includes state and state-funded agencies that make referrals for residential settings, such as the criminal justice, juvenile justice, and child welfare systems.

Names, locations, and additional details about each DDAP-licensed recovery house in Pennsylvania are regularly updated on DDAP's Facility Locator at:



<https://sais.health.pa.gov/commonpoc/content/PublicWeb/DAFind.aspx> You can select “Recovery House” under the Facility Type Search drop-down on the left-hand panel, and narrow your search by location if desired.

Fines for unlicensed recovery houses that require a license

Furthermore, the recovery house law requires that DDAP impose fines (up to \$1,000 for each violation) on unlicensed recovery houses that are “funded, in whole or in part, by a department or a Federal, other State or county agency.” This requirement was incorporated in the regulations at 28 Pa. Code § 717.14.

As detailed in the Preamble to the regulations, this section will become effective 180 days after publication of the regulations in the *Pennsylvania Code & Bulletin* on December 11, 2021.

Beginning June 9, 2022, DDAP will have the authority to impose fines up to \$1,000 per day on operators of unlicensed recovery houses that receive public funding.

If you have any questions about DDAP’s recovery house licensure program or this communication, please contact the Division of Drug and Alcohol Program Licensure at (717)-783-8675 or e-mail RA-licensuredivision@pa.gov.

Future recovery house licensing announcements may also be shared on our listserv. To be added to DDAP's listserv and receive updates from the department, please email RAPressOffice@pa.gov with your name, organization, and email address. Please include "Listserv" in the subject line.

I encourage all entities who have any involvement with recovery houses or individuals seeking recovery housing to be aware of the requirements outlined above. It will take us all working together to ensure that recovery houses – both those that do and do not seek licensure – are set up for success and avoiding unnecessary fines. We truly value the critical work that you all provide for the recovering community in Pennsylvania and look forward to our continued collaboration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer S. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer S. Smith
Secretary