Welcome to the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program. This manual is intended to inform providers who are delivering respite care services about general policies, principles and procedures. If you have any questions after reviewing this manual please feel free to contact your regional representative listed below.

The NAMI Maine respite program does not assign providers as it supports a model of family choice. All providers must be NAMI Maine employees and must satisfy eligibility requirements and complete an application and orientation process before working with families.

Nothing stated here represents a contractual commitment by NAMI Maine or The NAMI Maine Family Respite Program concerning the terms of the relationship between families and providers or other matters. NAMI Maine and the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program adhere to the general NAMI Maine policy and procedure manual as well as those policies and procedures contained in this manual. NAMI Maine is free to act according to the best business judgment of its management staff and to change the policies, principles and procedures described herein at any time with or without notice.

Office Contact Information:

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Our Mission

Mission Statement:

Through support, education and advocacy NAMI Maine is dedicated to building better lives for the one in four Mainers who are affected by mental illness.

NAMI Maine is a grassroots, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of everyone affected by mental illness. Services are provided both directly and through a statewide structure of local affiliates and support groups. We offer a wide variety of support groups, trainings and a help line that can be used by all family members. Please check out our website at http://www.namimaine.org/ or call us at 1-888-464-5767 for more information.

What is Respite

In keeping with the mission of NAMI Maine the purpose of respite care is to support families by providing a needed break in the responsibility of caring for a child with significant developmental delays, disabilities, and behavioral or emotional disabilities.

Providing continuous care for a child with special needs is stressful. Respite is the temporary relief from the responsibility of constant care giving. The Family Respite Program is designed to provide family members of children with special needs with time to revitalize themselves or attend to other matters, away from their care-giving responsibilities.

Respite is not to be utilized while a family is at work, as this is daycare. Requests for respite services must be made by the family member, caretaker, or guardian with whom the child resides. The Family Respite Program is not a clinical or crisis service. If you should ever need to contact crisis services the 24-hour state crisis number is 1-888-568-1112.
Program Guidelines

Eligibility: Children under the age of 18 with developmental or emotional/behavioral disabilities and their primary caregivers are eligible for respite services. Children in foster care, who are living in residential care settings, or children who are in state custody are not eligible. Respite is not to be used in lieu of daycare.

Levels of Care: There are two levels of care. Level I is provided to children with behavioral issues who have non-life threatening medical conditions generally controlled by medication, and who require basic respite care. Level II is for children with severe physical, behavioral or emotional needs that require a high level of skill. They may have life threatening medical conditions and/or medical fragility. They may exhibit aggressive and/or assaultive behavior and require intervention from people who are trained in behavioral intervention.

Respite Service:

• Families may be eligible to receive up to 288 hours of respite care per year.
• No respite provider shall be paid for more than 10 hours of continuous care in any 24 hour period, per family.
• No respite care provider may serve more than 4 children at any one time.
• No respite care provider may serve children from multiple families at one time.
• Respite hours roll over from month to month throughout the fiscal year (July 1 – June 30), beginning on the date of approval.
• No hours may be carried from one fiscal year to the next (the fiscal year begins on July 1)
• All families will be subject to a sliding fee scale, based upon income and established by DHHS.
• All respite providers must be certified by NAMI Maine, which includes a criminal, child protective and motor vehicle background check.
• All individuals age 18 and older, living in the same household as the respite provider are also required to have the background checks.
• All respite care is based on the development of an individual respite action plan.
• If a family requests their child participate in activities that have costs, the family is responsible for providing funds for those costs.
• Families must submit a signed satisfaction survey at least once per quarter.
• Providers may work up to 29 hours per week.

See the “Per Diem Respite Employees” section in the NAMI Maine Policy Manual for more details.
Linkage to NAMI Maine Respite Providers

POLICY: It is the policy of the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program to offer families the opportunity to utilize their own choice of respite provider or choose from a list of available respite providers in their region. All respite providers must maintain an on-line profile and an active e-mail address for contact, registrations and program updates. Families will be responsible for ensuring that the respite provider they choose is thoroughly informed about all aspects of care pertaining to the needs of their child. All respite providers providing respite hours for a family must be employed by NAMI Maine.

Procedure:

1. Existing relationships between families and respite providers will be honored and encouraged.
2. Families and individuals approved for respite services will be notified and provided with information on how to access respite provider profiles on the NAMI Maine website. The families and individuals will be informed that it is their responsibility to contact, interview and select a provider. NAMI Maine can provide guidance regarding the types of questions and issues that a family or individual may want to consider before selecting a respite provider.
3. The dates and hours during which respite services are to be provided are determined between the respite providers and the caregivers or families, in accordance with the families’ needs, the program’s guidelines and the funding parameters that govern the program. In no instance may respite care be used as child daycare.
4. Respite families may end their relationship with a worker at any time. Respite providers, too, may end their relationship with a family. Families and providers are encouraged to notify their regional respite director/coordinator when a change occurs.
5. A family or individual that is unable to obtain another respite provider may contact their regional respite manager for assistance or they may search for and refer an individual to apply with NAMI Maine to become their respite provider.
6. NAMI Maine will maintain an online list of available respite providers.
Key Policies

All NAMI Maine policies are outlined in the Policy Manual which is distributed at orientation. It is the responsibility of all family respite providers to review and adhere to these policies as a NAMI employee. Some key policies are detailed below to guide you in your work as a family respite provider.

Confidentiality

POLICY: NAMI Maine complies with state and federal confidentiality laws that govern the release of information about medical and behavioral health. It is the policy of the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program that confidentiality of the respite providers, families, and individuals who provide or receive respite services be maintained at all times. All respite providers will adhere to these guidelines and sign a notice of confidentiality statement.

Abuse/Neglect and Mandated Reporting

POLICY: It is the policy of NAMI Maine to report suspected abuse and to follow rules connected to mandated reporting. All family respite providers are mandated reporters. Please see the “Abuse and Neglect” section of the NAMI Maine Policy Manual for more details.

Adverse Incidents

POLICY: It is the policy of NAMI Maine to provide a safe work environment and to report all adverse incidents to external authorities (as required) and to the Executive Director. Please see the “Adverse Incidents” section the NAMI Maine Policy Manual and the handout on Reporting Protocol for more details.

Safety

POLICY: It is the policy of NAMI Maine to provide all employees with a safe and healthy workplace. An effective health and safety program protects NAMI Maine’s most valuable asset, its employees. In return, NAMI Maine expects its employees to adhere to safety policies and procedures and to recognize their individual obligation to conduct themselves with regard to their own safety and that of others. All new employees are oriented to NAMI Maine safety procedures. Please see the “Policy on Safety” section in the NAMI Maine Policy Manual for full details.
Medications

POLICY: It is the policy of NAMI Maine’s Respite Program to safely dispense medications to children during the time that they are in respite care only if the family grants written permission.

Procedure:

Respite providers may, with written permission from the family, dispense medications to children under their care. Written permission must be documented for each time respite care is provided and medications will need to be dispensed. The family is to specify, in writing, the name of the medication(s), dose(s), and times that the medication(s) are to be provided.

Families may only provide the exact number of pills for the time that respite care will be provided. The respite provider must sign that they have received the medications (i.e., each pill, the dose, the time to be dispensed and the initials of the respite provider for each). Under no circumstances may respite providers be given a bottle of pills, blister pack, or doses beyond what will be needed during the episode of care. Please see the “Guidelines for Administering Medications” handout for more details.

The NAMI Maine Family Respite Program does not require respite providers to dispense medications and a respite provider may choose not to dispense medications. Any and all inappropriate, fraudulent or misuse of medications by a respite provider will result in immediate termination. Failure of a family to report suspected or admitted misuse of medications by a respite provider may also be cause to terminate services.

Suicide Prevention Protocol

Suicidal behavior is complex and frightening. The impact of a suicide is devastating to family, friends, and entire communities. The frequency of suicide in Maine is cause for concern. On average there is one suicide every two days. The Maine Suicide Prevention Program and NAMI Maine offer many trainings and family respite providers are encouraged to attend. If you suspect that anyone may be suicidal, contact the Maine Crisis Program at 1-888-568-1112.
Boundaries

NAMI Maine strives to ensure that all respite providers consider how they work with families and how those relationships impact the children receiving care. Respite is a planned, intentional break for parents. It is not a clinical service for children, nor is it designed to provide support to parents outside of the provision of respite. There are many resources that providers can share when they feel families would benefit from additional programs and services. However, too often providers can cross the line from respite provider to family advocate or support person. If you feel a family could benefit from other services, please direct them to other known resources or the NAMI Maine Information & Referral Help Line (1-800-464-5767).

NAMI Maine respects that many respite providers are family members or close family friends and are providing respite to children that are already known to the respite provider. NAMI Maine does not expect family members or close family friends who come to the respite program with a family to follow these expectations around boundaries. When a respite provider’s FIRST contact with a family is as a result of the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program, we do expect that both the parents and the provider will work to adhere to appropriate boundaries. More specific boundary guidelines are provided in the “Boundary Guidelines” handout.

If either a family member or a respite provider engages in behavior that clearly crosses appropriate limitations for the consented relationship, NAMI Maine has the right to suspend from services either or both party from services for at least 30 days.

Examples of behavior that would be grounds for suspension, but not limited to:

• Contacting family members, extended family members of provider or family without permission,
• Contacting the respite provider or family member(s) on a work phone number,
• Making false statements or filing reports with authorities that are intentionally false and knowingly inaccurate,
• Physically showing up unannounced at a provider or family’s home, worksite or child’s school,
• Engaging in any form of defamation of character or slander in a public forum about a provider, family or family member of either party,
• Harassment or communication beyond that which is necessary to arrange or deliver services.

Once again, these expectations are in place when a provider and family do not have an established relationship prior to receiving family respite services.

Please see the Family Respite Program “Boundary Guidelines” handout for more details. If you have any questions about what is or isn’t a boundary issue please contact your regional manager.
Respite Provider Recruitment, Classification, and Terms of Employment

POLICY: It is the policy of the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program to employ certified respite providers and individuals with independent licensure to provide respite care. To this end, it is the policy of the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program to recruit and retain individuals of diverse backgrounds, including those who may have disabilities or who may have family members with disabilities.

It is also the policy of the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program to offer two types of respite care:

- **Level I:** Families who receive Level I care are those whose children require basic respite care where there are behavioral issues that require behavior management. Level I respite providers may have Mandt, NAPPI, or other behavioral intervention training but are not required to have this training. Families receiving Level I care may have children with non-life threatening medical conditions that are generally controlled by medication.

- **Level II:** Families who receive Level II care are those whose children have severe physical, behavioral or emotional needs that require a high level of skill from a respite provider. There may be life threatening medical conditions and medical fragility. Children receiving Level II care may exhibit aggressive and/or assaultive behaviors and workers will have experience and certification that involves behavioral intervention certification.

The Executive Director shall have the authority to hire and terminate respite providers. All recruitment and selection decisions will be made in accordance with NAMI Maine policies and procedures.

Procedure:

1. Recruitment, selection and authority to hire and terminate respite providers lies with NAMI Maine’s Executive Director.
2. Respite providers will be recruited via advertising, notifications in the NAMI Maine Newsletter, publicly posted notices, mailings to relevant university and college departments and programs and other methods.
3. All NAMI Maine respite providers are subject to the following classifications:
   a. **Level I Providers:** Certified respite providers who have experience with children with special needs, behavioral interventions, and behavior management.
   b. **Level II Providers:** Certified respite providers who have training and certification in the management of aggressive, assaultive, and life threatening medical conditions and medical fragility.
4. All respite providers must complete orientation and personnel requirements of NAMI Maine employees.
Respite Provider Eligibility Requirements

**POLICY:** It is the policy of the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program that all persons wishing to become NAMI Maine respite providers must satisfy the eligibility requirements and successfully complete the application process in order to be considered for acceptance as respite providers. As of January 1, 2013, all respite providers providing services must be certified according to the Respite Care Certification guidelines found at www.respiteforme.com.

**Procedure:**

In order to be eligible to provide respite services under contract with NAMI Maine an individual must:

- Be at least 18 years of age, but must be 21 to transport respite recipients,
- Be either a U.S. citizen or otherwise eligible to be employed in the U.S.,
- Have at least a high school diploma or GED,
- Submit a completed application,
- Submit a resume or work history,
- Submit at least two positive references—these must be from current or former employers, supervisors of either an internship or volunteer activities or some other similar type of reference,
- Agree to and successfully pass background checks with the Division of Motor Vehicles, the State Bureau of Identification, and the Department of Health and Human Services and
- Obtain and maintain required certification (Mandated Reporting, First Aid, Blood Borne Pathogens and CPR).

An individual’s application to become a respite provider will be denied if:

1. There exists a Department of Health and Human Services substantiated case of abuse or neglect.
2. There exists a conviction of a crime against either a child or an adult, a crime involving violence, or operating under the influence.
3. There are significant motor vehicle incidents that document unsafe driving habits.
4. Formal allegations being processed for either of the above will be cause to delay initial certification, pending resolution of the allegations. In substantiated cases/convictions, certification **will be denied.** Certification may be issued at the discretion of NAMI Maine if there exists a conviction for a crime other than those identified above, pending a review of the circumstances with the applicant and, at the discretion of NAMI Maine, an evaluation by a psychologist or therapist. Any evaluation is at the expense of the potential provider.
5. Once accepted (prior to providing any respite services) respite providers must complete the NAMI Maine orientation process as outlined in NAMI Maine’s policy and procedure manual.
Respite Provider Certification Respite Provider Recertification

POLICY: It is the policy of the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program that all individuals providing respite services meet the eligibility criteria previously set forth in the section entitled “Respite Provider Eligibility Requirements” and qualify as either a Level I or Level II provider. All individuals providing respite services must be recertified every two years, from the date of employment.

Procedure: Certification – Level I

In order to be a Level I certified respite provider, an individual must satisfy the eligibility criteria set forth in the section entitled “Respite Provider Eligibility Requirements” and the following:

1. Must satisfy at least one of the following scenarios:
   i. Successfully complete required trainings from NAMI Maine
   ii. Complete the on-line training modules and exam found at www.respiteforme.com
   iii. Provide documentation of at least 30 hours of training/education in working with children who have special needs
2. Must successfully complete all NAMI Maine required training or training updates.
3. Must complete all required orientation paperwork.
4. Must immediately notify NAMI Maine’s Executive Director of any legal actions that have been taken or are pending against them in the time since the initial background checks. Such actions may include, but are not limited to driving license violations and criminal violations.

Failure to comply with any of these criteria could result in termination.

Procedure: Certification – Level II

In order to be Level II certified, an individual must satisfy the eligibility criteria set forth in the section titled, “Respite Provider Eligibility Requirements” and the following:

1. Must possess and submit evidence of a current BHP certification, 30 hours of specialized education/training or a license to practice independently.
2. Must successfully complete any required trainings from NAMI Maine prior to providing any services.
3. Must successfully complete all NAMI Maine training updates.
4. Must immediately notify NAMI Maine’s Executive Director of any legal actions that have been taken or are pending against them in the time since the initial background checks. Such actions may include but are not limited to driving license violations and criminal violations.
5. Must maintain their certification by obtaining necessary continuing education credits as required.
Procedure: Recertification

Certification either as a Level I or Level II provider is for a two-year period. In order to be recertified an individual must:

1. Be actively providing care to at least one family.
2. Receive at least one positive evaluation from at least one family for whom care has been provided.
3. Complete annual required NAMI Maine training or submit documentation of at least four hours of training in behavioral health offered by a creditable agency or institution and accepted by the Executive Director, within two years of the last certification.
4. A willingness and availability to work with families during the period of certification.
5. Have provided at least 60 hours of respite care in the previous two years.
6. Agree to and successfully pass updated background checks with the Division of Motor Vehicles, the State Bureau of Identification, and the Department of Human Services.

Either a Level I or Level II provider will be denied recertification if:

- There exists a Department of Health and Human Services substantiated case of abuse or neglect or significant motor vehicle violations.
- There exists a conviction of a crime against either a child or an adult, a crime involving violence or operating under the influence.
- Formal allegations being processed for either of the above will be cause to delay recertification pending resolution of the allegations. In substantiated cases/convictions, recertification will be denied.
- There are substantiated concerns expressed by families who have received care.

Recertification may be issued at the discretion of NAMI Maine if there exists a conviction for a crime other than those identified above, pending a review of the circumstances with the applicant and, at the discretion of NAMI Maine, an evaluation by a psychologist or therapist. Any evaluation is at the expense of the provider.
Criminal Background Checks

**POLICY:** It is the policy of the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program to conduct background checks on newly certified respite providers and any individual age 18 or older who resides with the provider. NAMI Maine reviews any criminal charges against any respite provider or a household member in terms of the impact on the agency and the respite program.

**Procedure:**

1. When an applicant wishing to provide respite services is offered the opportunity to become a certified respite provider, she or he is required to disclose any criminal convictions or pending criminal charges at the time of application for employment with NAMI Maine.
2. Although NAMI Maine believes that a person is innocent until proven guilty, the Executive Director may choose to suspend any respite provider charged with a criminal offense.
3. When this legal action is resolved, the status of the respite provider will be determined by the Executive Director.
4. Any respite provider who is charged with a crime must report it to the Executive Director. Failure to do so may result in termination of employment.

Note: As part of the application process for becoming a respite provider, the provider applicant and anyone in the household 18 and older must consent to background checks including motor vehicle, criminal and child protective services. Any criminal record or motor vehicle violation may constitute valid cause to not hire an individual. Such decisions will be the sole responsibility of the Executive Director or their designee. Any applicant who has a substantiated record of child abuse or neglect, using current standards for such, will not be approved as a respite provider. Any family member 18 years of age or older who resides in the same household as the provider and who has a criminal record, motor vehicle violation, substantiated record of child abuse or neglect, or any substantiated charges involving vulnerable populations, may constitute cause for not approving a provider applicant.

Respite services may be provided in a variety of locations, some requiring prior approval.

1) Respite may be provided by an approved family respite provider in the family home.
2) Respite may be provided in the provider home when background checks have been completed on every individual 18 years of age and older living in the same household and the Executive Director, or their designee, makes a determination that there are no records or accounts that constitute an unsafe environment for respite children.
3) Respite may be provided in the community. The respite provider is responsible for ensuring the character of any individual who they are in contact with during the provision of respite services. Any violations of the above policies are grounds for immediate dismissal.

When a minor in the household is turning 18, background checks must be completed. This process must be started within thirty (30) days of turning 18. Providers previously approved to provide respite in their home may continue to do so, as long as the process for the background check is started within thirty (30) days. If the process is not started within thirty (30) days, a provider may not
provide respite in their home. At the discretion of the Family Respite Program, and depending upon the situation, a respite provider may be placed on temporary inactive status until such time as all required background checks are completed.

Any subsequent criminal, motor vehicle or substantiated abuse or neglect must be reported by the provider to their regional respite manager within fourteen (14) days of the offense. Should, at any time, a change occur in the household resulting in additional individuals over the age of 18 residing in the home, background checks must be completed on these individuals. It is the responsibility of the respite provider to notify the Family Respite Program and initiate the paperwork for the background checks.

**Training Sessions**

**POLICY:** It is the policy of the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program to require attendance at and the successful completion of training and orientation by all individuals providing respite services. Additionally, the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program may require certification via the Respite for Me website through review of the Respite program training modules and successful passing of the Respite exam.

**Procedure:**

1. Prior to providing any respite services, all individuals must attend and successfully complete required NAMI Maine orientation and training.

**Supplemental Training Sessions**

**POLICY:** It is the policy of NAMI Maine to assure its workers have adequate training.

**Procedure:**

1. The Executive Director will have the discretion to develop, review and require additional training sessions concerning various topics considered to be relevant to the provision of respite care services.
2. The Executive Director will notify respite providers regarding training requirements with enough notice that they can meet those requirements.
3. All respite providers are required to become certified in Youth Mental Health First Aid.
Compensation and Limits to Respite Services

POLICY: It is NAMI Maine's policy to maintain standard employment and other practices concerning its respite providers and to ensure accountability and regular satisfaction from families receiving care.

1. There are two rates of pay for respite providers – an hourly rate for Level I and an hourly rate for Level II. These rates are based on the requirements of the contract with the Department of Health and Human Services.
2. No respite provider will:
   1. Bill for more than 10 hours of continuous care in any 24 hour period, per family.
   2. Bill for more than 29 hours per week (pay period Saturday to Friday)
   3. Serve any more than 4 children from the same family at one time.
   4. Serve children from multiple families at one time.
3. Respite families will report satisfaction via a satisfaction survey at least quarterly

Time sheets (Respite Service Report) Reimbursable Expenses

POLICY: It is the policy of the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program to require the submission of properly completed time sheets and other paperwork by all respite providers in order for the respite providers to receive timely payment. The NAMI Maine Family Respite Program operates on the state's fiscal year, starting on July 1st and ending on June 30th. Respite providers must deliver and document the provision of respite services within those months in accordance with the annual payroll schedule.

Any respite provider who intentionally submits timesheets reflecting inaccurate times worked is committing fraud. Such inaccuracies will result in immediate dismissal. Any family that knowingly signs a respite service report knowing it contains inaccurate information may also be removed from the respite program. Such decisions are at the sole discretion of the Executive Director and may not be appealed.

Procedure:

1. All respite providers must submit a completed NAMI Maine Respite Service Report (or online payment submission if applicable) in order to receive payment for services rendered. The submission of incomplete or improper forms may result in delayed payment(s) to providers. Forms may be returned to providers for correction and completion.
2. Families are responsible for providing applicable funds for any activities they request. NAMI Maine does not reimburse for any activities.
3. The Respite Service Report must be signed by both the caregiver and the respite provider after respite care has been provided, verifying the actual date, times and respite children receiving care on those occasions. Forms submitted without proper signatures will be returned to the respite providers unpaid.
4. Respite Service Report forms should be submitted within the pay period in which respite services are provided and payment will be processed bi-weekly in accordance with NAMI Maine’s payroll.

5. Respite Service Reports must be submitted by noon on the Friday that ends a pay period. Any Respite Service Reports received after noon will not be paid until the next scheduled payroll date.

6. Family caregivers cannot pay providers and then be reimbursed by NAMI Maine.

7. The introductory meeting between the family receiving services and the respite provider is considered billable time and should be submitted within the pay period in which it occurred. This is called a ‘meet and greet’ and can last up to 3 hours. This time is reported on a Respite Service Report.

8. In the event a respite provider submits a Respite Service Report for hours of respite services that were provided to a family in excess of the family’s yearly allotment of hours, the provider will not be paid.

9. Respite providers are to be reimbursed only for hours of respite care that they provide. the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program does not reimburse providers or caregivers for any other expenses connected with the provision of respite services, including but not limited to long-distance telephone calls or activities that charge a fee (e.g. Movies, museums, restaurants). If a family requests these activities as part of respite care, they are responsible for providing the respite provider with the fees and other costs needed. This includes reasonable travel costs at the approved State rate.

10. Respite providers may receive additional compensation of $1.00 per hour, per approved respite child when a family has more than one eligible child, up to a total of three additional children.

11. Respite providers are reimbursed for travel from their home to point of service and back again (once per episode) at the current State of Maine rate. The maximum amount to be reimbursed is for 150 miles per episode and does not include mileage for transporting children during respite care. Mileage reimbursement only applies to respite episodes of four or more continuous hours.

**Billing System Control Decision to Deny Payment of Respite Service Report**

**POLICY:** It is the policy of the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program to insure that appropriate checks and balances are maintained over the receipt and expenditure of respite program funds. All procedures set forth in this section of the manual are designed to insure that the organization’s financial transactions are accurately carried out and to operate in conjunction with those procedures set forth in NAMI Maine’s Policy and Procedure Manual in the section entitled “Accounting Control”. It is also the policy of the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program to reserve the right to deny payment of vouchers for respite services under certain circumstances.

**Procedure:**

1. The Executive Director, or their designee, shall review all Respite Service Reports submitted to NAMI Maine for completeness and compliance with all relevant policies and procedures.
The hours submitted by each respite provider will be entered into the payroll database which tracks the total hours submitted during the current fiscal year.

2. The Executive Director, or their designee, will approve or deny payment in accordance with the Family Respite Program’s Policies and budgetary constraints, and sign and mark the payment voucher form accordingly.

3. In the event of a problem with a voucher submitted for respite services, the Executive Director, or their designee, will contact the respite provider involved and attempt to resolve the problem.

4. The decision to approve or deny payment of a Respite Service Report submitted for respite services or expenses is at the discretion of the Executive Director, or their designee. Payment decisions may be based on, but are not limited to, (a) completeness of the Respite Service Report that was submitted (b) budgetary constraints (c) whether the submitted Respite Service Report complies with all relevant policies and procedures governing NAMI Maine and its Family Respite Program and (d) the existence of fraud.

5. If a Respite Service Report is denied payment, NAMI Maine will notify the respite provider involved stating the reason for the denial and advising the respite provider of their right to appeal. This notification will be given within ten business days of the decision to deny payment.

6. The appeal process for a denial of payment is the same as the one that is followed after a decision to deny respite services.

**Supervision of Respite Providers**

**POLICY:** It is the policy of the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program to supervise respite providers, monitor and limit the number of hours of care they provide and assess the quality of the service they provide.

**Procedure:**

All providers are required to participate in monthly supervision. This shall include a one hour-long call for group supervision per quarter. Additionally providers are required to participate in at least 6 one-on-one and two face-to-face supervisions annually.

**Respite Providers Acting as Respite Providers for Their Families, Relatives or Individuals Known to Them**

**Policy:** It is the policy of the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program that families should have discretion to choose their respite provider, and may be permitted to select family members that to provide respite care or individuals they know and/or who know their child and are familiar with or known to the family. However, under no circumstances can a family caregiver, family, or individual receive respite services and, at the same time, serve as a respite provider. A family’s respite provider and the respite family may not live in the same household.

**Procedure:**
1. All respite providers will be advised of this policy during their orientation or be considered to have constructive notice by virtue of their having received a copy of this policy and procedure manual.

2. All family caregivers will receive notice of this policy at the time they are approved for respite services, as part of the information materials distributed to families participating in the program.

3. Respite providers or family caregivers found to be in violation of this policy may be terminated from the program.

**Family Caregiver, Client and Respite Provider Surveys**

**POLICY:** It is the policy of the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program to gather information concerning the needs and opinions of those persons who either receive or provide the program’s respite services.

**Procedure:**

1. Information concerning the needs and opinions of respite families will be gathered from the DHHS questionnaire, the completed survey will be submitted to NAMI Maine at least once each quarter. Forms may be found on the NAMI Maine website. Respite providers are required to ask each of their respite families to complete the survey once each quarter.

2. Families will be provided this questionnaire when they are first approved for respite care to offer a baseline for future surveys.

3. Families may complete the survey and return it to the respite provider to submit, may fill it out and mail or email it to the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program, or they may contact the respite program and ask for assistance in completing the survey.

4. Families who fail to complete these surveys will be asked to comply, given a two month period of time to comply, after which the continuation of respite services will be reviewed, and may, based upon that review, be terminated.

**Service Termination**

**Policy:** It is the policy of the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program that the relationship between a respite provider and the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program may be terminated by either the provider or NAMI Maine at any time for any reason.

**Procedure:**

1. The party terminating the relationship shall inform the other in writing of the decision to terminate the relationship within a reasonable time, not to exceed ten business days from the date of the decision. The initial notification may, however, be verbal.

2. Following the termination of the relationship, a provider will be paid for any outstanding hours of respite care unless a legitimate reason exists to deny payment.
3. Should financial or reorganizational reasons result in the termination of the relationship by NAMI Maine, every effort will be made to provide providers with a one month advance notice.

Adoption of Policies

POLICY: NAMI Maine and the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program operates under certain policies and procedures that assure that all families, respite providers and NAMI Maine staff understand and follow the same rules. It is the policy of the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program for the Director to draft policies and to implement them. All policies must be approved by the Executive Director and the NAMI Maine Board of Directors.

Procedure:

1. NAMI Maine reserves the right to modify policies and procedures at any time and without advance notice.
2. As the need arises the Executive Director shall draft policy and procedures for implementation. The policies shall be submitted to the Board at the next scheduled meeting for a vote.
3. In the interim between meetings, the draft policies will be in place, pending approval by the Board.
4. All Family Respite Program policies and procedures may be reviewed by any board member for comment, at any time.
5. The NAMI Maine Family Respite Program considers themselves free to act according to the best business judgment of its management staff and Board of Directors, and to change the policies, principles and procedure described here, at any time, with or without notice to either the families or individuals receiving respite services or to the respite providers.

Rev 9/17
NAMI Maine’s Reservation of Rights

**POLICY:** NAMI Maine and the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program reserves the right to deny or revoke certification to individuals whose performance and personal behavior is inconsistent with those of the organization.

NAMI Maine reserves the right to deny or terminate respite provider certification to anyone whose personal behavior, relationships or actions are determined by NAMI Maine to create a potential risk to families and children who are part of the Family Respite Program.

NAMI Maine and the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program reserves the right to refuse or to enter or continue any and all relations with a respite provider who (1) the Department of Health & Human Services has substantiated allegations of abuse or neglect against, (2) has been convicted of any crime, or (3) has been determined by NAMI Maine to have engaged in fraudulent billing for respite services.

Formal allegations being processed for the above will cause to end all relations pending resolution of the allegations. In cases resulting in convictions or substantiated allegations, all relations will end.

Employment may be revoked by the NAMI Maine Family Respite Program at any time, for any reason. Notification will be provided to the provider and the family as soon as a decision to revoke the certification has been made.