

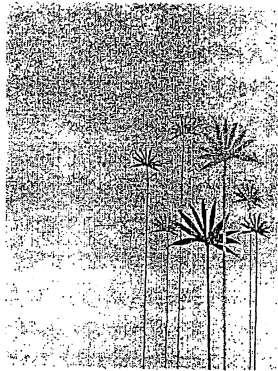
Autism Division

The Autism Division serves children ages 3 to 18 who have a Pervasive Developmental Disorder. PDD includes:

- Autistic Disorder
- Rett's Syndrome
- Childhood Disintegrative Disorder
- PDD / NOS
- Asperger's Syndrome

Regional Eligibility Teams do not diagnose autism spectrum disorders. Instead, they accept a diagnosis from autism trained clinicians, including:

- Developmental Pediatricians
- Neurologists
- Psychologists and
- Psychiatrists



To apply for Eligibility, call

(413) 284 - 5045

(413) 284 - 1517 (Fax)



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Eligibility Coordinator

(413) 284-5040

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts**

**Department of
Developmental Services**

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA



**Central/West
Regional Office
171 State Avenue
Palmer, MA 01069**

General Eligibility

Persons who are 18 years of age or older are eligible for supports provided, purchased or arranged by DDS if the person:

- Is domiciled in MA
- Is a person with mental retardation as defined below

Mental retardation means significantly sub-average intellectual functioning existing concurrently and related to significant limitations in adaptive functioning. Mental retardation manifests itself before age 18.

Significant sub-average intellectual functioning means an intelligence test score that is indicated by a score of 70 or below as determined from the findings of assessment using valid and comprehensive, individual measures of intelligence that are administered in standardized formats and interpreted by qualified practitioners.

Significant Limitations in Adaptive Functioning means:

- An overall composite adaptive functioning limitation that is two standard deviations below the mean or
- Adaptive functioning limitations in two out of three domains (1.5 standard deviations below the mean of the appropriate norming sample) determined from the findings of a standard measure of adaptive behavior and interpreted by a qualified practitioner

The domains of adaptive functioning that are assessed are:

- Independent living / practical skills
- Cognitive, communication, and academic conceptual skills and
- Social competence / social skills

Children Eligible for DDS Family Supports

Children from birth to five may be eligible for family supports if the person

- Is domiciled in MA
- Has a developmental delay (*) and
- Demonstrates severe functional impairments as defined below (*) a substantial developmental delay or specified congenital or acquired condition with a high probability of resulting in a developmental disability if services are not provided

Children between the ages of 5 and 18 may be eligible for family supports if the person

- Is domiciled in MA
- Has a verified diagnosis of mental retardation or a closely related developmental condition (**) and
- Demonstrates severe functional impairments as defined below

Severe Functional Impairments means functional impairments in at least three specified areas of adaptive functioning, based upon normative expectations of the type of skills normally acquired as the child develops, as measured by standardized assessment of comparable data.

The areas of adaptive functioning considered are

- Self-care
- Communication (receptive & expressive)
- Learning
- Mobility
- Self-direction and
- (for individuals 14 years or older) capacity for independent living and economic self-sufficiency

Closely Related Developmental conditions

- (**) means genetic, neurodevelopmental, or physical disorders that have a significant overlap with mental retardation, and result in similar support needs. They may include
- Williams Syndrome
 - Praeder-Willi Syndrome
 - Lesch-Nyhan Syndrome
 - Angelman Syndrome
 - Cri du Chat Syndrome
 - Down Syndrome
 - Fragile X Syndrome
 - Cerebral Palsy
 - PDD (including the following specific autism spectrum disorders: Autistic Disorder, Rett's Syndrome, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder, and PDD NOS)
 - Spina Bifida
 - Tuberosus Sclerosis
 - Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
 - Any other developmental disorder that DDS determines to be a closely related developmental condition

