


Martin O'Malley.
Governor

Anthony Brown
Lt. Governor

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Secretary

DATE: March 9, 2010

TO: RCC and CPA contractors

FROM:  Kevin Keegan, Director, Resource Development, Placement and Support Services

RE: Census guidance

Over the coming weeks everyone will be receiving their census survey in the mail. This includes all foster homes and group homes where children may be placed. Many questions will certainly arise regarding how to count the children, and this memo is intended to provide some clarity for everyone. I am attaching a document from the Census Bureau website with detailed information related to children in group placements, hospitals, etc.

The simple rule related to a child who is placed by the Department, whether in a foster home or group home, is that child will be counted where they are placed and where they will be sleeping the night of April 1. If a child moves on April 1, they would be counted at the place where they will go to bed on the night of April 1.

A question has also arisen about what to do if a census worker states that they need to speak to any of our children. I spoke to a person at the Census Bureau 800 number, and they were very clear that there is no reason why census staff would need to speak directly to the children who are living in family homes, group homes or other residential programs. The head of household/program staff would be the only one who would be interviewed if an interview is necessary. An exception to this may be youth living in an apartment based independent living program, or those living on their own. In this case they should be prepared to complete the survey as would any other citizen, and there is a possibility of being interviewed by a census worker for youth in this living situation. We expect Independent Living Programs to work with their clients on compliance with completion of the Census. Census workers will be interviewing not only for those who have failed to complete the survey, but also as a quality assurance measure they will be interviewing some residences that have already filled out the form.