

Response Team Procedure

If you are working with a family who you believe may be struggling with hoarding behavior, please follow the steps below:

1. Conduct a mini assessment using the Home Health and Safety Assessment found at the Hoarding Task Force website – www.livgov.com/hscb/Pages/LC-Hoarding-Task-Force.aspx
2. If there appears any concern to safety, please contact Adult Protective Services or Child Protective Services at 855-444-3911.
3. Discuss with the resident and/or family ways to begin to ensure the household is safe. Many tools can be found on the website above to help facilitate a conversation about safety. Print off and provide the household with Safety Codes Tip Sheets and other fire safety flyers.
4. If the resident is willing to work to maintain a safe home, that may be all the incentive needed to begin the process. Hoarding is not illegal and people should not be “forced” to make the change. Family can also access resources on the website to help them better understand the resident’s rights and how to support them, if they choose to make change.
5. Help the resident to identify who their natural supports are. These can be friends, families, caregivers, neighbors, faith-based supports or other supports that would be willing to help them as they work to make changes.

If the resident is willing to become engaged in supports to either clean up their home and/or access resources to help reduce their possessions, please follow the steps below:

1. First explore a willingness to engage a clean-up company. These companies are kind and gentle in their work. They understand the nature of this disorder and will work to help the family be at ease as they clean up the home. Clean-up companies can be found in the resources on the above website. Cleaning companies can be costly and the option of using natural supports to begin the process should be discussed.
2. Complete a Safety Assessment and Release form for the Hoarding Task Force Response Team. Submit to Anne Rennie at arennie@cmhliv.org . This form should clearly identify the resident’s natural support person or the referral person who will be assisting with the review.
3. The Response Team will contact the resident and schedule a visit. They must be willing to have a group visit.
4. Once approved, a site visit will be scheduled. It is expected that the referring source and/or natural support person participates in the site visit with the Response Team.

Once the site visit is complete, the Response Team will make recommendations for the resident. The referring source and/or natural support person will be provided those recommendations in order to be able to follow up.