

TITLE: DAILY STATUS CHECKS

PURPOSE: To determine if there has been a change in the clients physical or emotional wellness and to determine if their home environment has changed.

While it is a home delivered drivers' (volunteer or staff) primary responsibility to assure that each participant on their route receives a hot meal; we also have a responsibility of assuring participants are alright on a day-to-day basis. "Daily Status Checks" on both participants and their home environment assures us that either 1) participants are alright or, 2) lets us know something may be wrong and the participant may be in need of either immediate or on-going assistance from other senior service providers.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

- Less "kept" than usual (i.e., unshaven, soiled/dirty clothing, same clothing all the time, unkempt, uncut/dirty hair)
- Cuts or bruises
- Complaints of falling and/or "blacking out"
- Weight loss
- Not wearing clothes
- Inappropriate clothing for weather (too much or too little)
- Overgrown fingernails or toenails
- Not wearing hearing aid/dentures when needed
- Unsteady gate

MENTAL STATUS CHECK

- Slurred speech
- Confusion and/or forgetfulness
- Complaints regarding sleeping patterns
- Depression/listlessness
- Paranoia; afraid others are "out to get them"

HOME ENVIRONMENT

- Utilities cut off; inadequate heating or cooling
- Garbage piled up
- Strong odor of either human or pet urine or feces
- Excessive medication bottles scattered about
- Fleas, roaches, ants
- Food left out and spoiled
- Needs cleaning; increasingly becoming more and more cluttered

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS TO “LISTEN FOR” OR OBSERVE

- Complaints about not having enough money to buy food, clothes or paying for utilities
- Large groups of people “hanging out” or “visiting” participants
- Excessive numbers of automobiles parked out front
- Complaints about how relations and/or neighbors and friends treat them
- New additions to household; i.e., unidentified person now living in the home
- Complaints about medication