

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 15-9 AS IT RELATES TO UTILITY CUSTOMERS WITH CERTAIN MEDICAL VULNERABILITIES.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. City Code Section 15-9-23 (Utility Service Regulations) is amended to read as follows:

§ 15-9-23 MEDICALLY VULNERABLE RESIDENTS.

- (A) The City shall maintain a list of residential service addresses that have a Medically Vulnerable [resident] Resident. A Medically Vulnerable [resident] Resident has a documented condition as defined below:
 - (1) LIFE SUPPORT means the resident is sustained by a life support system that [has been registered with and approved by the City and that] requires uninterrupted electric or water service. The resident's need for the system must be certified [by a licensed physician] and verified as defined by Subsection B, as essential to sustain the life of the resident, and include but are not limited to devices such as an iron lung, ventilator, feeding pump, kidney dialysis machine, aerosol tent, apnea monitor, blood pump, compressor/concentrator, electric nerve stimulator, extremity pump, hospital bed, hemodialysis machine, oxygen concentrator, pressure pump, pressure pad, and respirator;
 - (2) CRITICAL ILLNESS means the resident is being treated by a licensed [physician] medical practitioner as defined under Subsection B for paraplegia, hemiplegia, quadriplegia, multiple sclerosis, or scleroderma[, and]; such medical condition requires heating or air conditioning; and the final outcome of the medical condition may be treatable or remain uncertain; and[,]
 - (3) SERIOUS ILLNESS means the resident is being treated by a licensed [physician] medical practitioner as defined under Subsection B for a physical or mental disease or ailment of [long] indefinite duration or frequent recurrence where bodily function or organs would be seriously impaired without heating or air conditioning.
- (B) For a service address to be listed as having a Medically Vulnerable [resident]
 Resident, the Medically Vulnerable [resident] Resident, or a duly authorized guardian or representative, must complete, sign, and provide to the City, and the City must approve, an application including the following:

- (1) a signed certification by a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, clinical nurse specialist, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, certified nursing assistant, or state-licensed clinical social worker of the qualifying medical condition, including but not limited to the length of time the condition is expected to exist;
- (2) authorization by the Medically Vulnerable [resident] Resident, or a duly authorized guardian or representative, for the City to verify the [physician's] signed certification and other information in the application;
- (3) authorization for on-site verifications at the service address by City personnel at [reasonable] prescheduled times or unscheduled if necessary, during emergencies or if unable to contact the customer;
- (4) designation of a contact person (including name, address, and phone number) authorized to receive communications or other utility related information from the City on behalf of the Medically Vulnerable [resident] Resident; and
- (5) such other information the City may deem necessary to approve the application.
- (C) For a service address to remain on the Medically Vulnerable Registry, the Medically Vulnerable Resident, or a duly authorized guardian or representative must comply with the following: [Life Support and Critical Illness residents, or a duly authorized guardian or representative, must reapply under Subsection (B) of this section on an annual basis to maintain Medically Vulnerable Status, while Serious Illness residents, or a duly authorized guardian or representative, must reapply after every two months. Failure to reapply shall result in removal from the Medically Vulnerable list.]
 - (1) Life Support Residents with a verified certification will have permanent status as a Medically Vulnerable Resident for as long as the qualifying resident remains at the verified address and a duly authorized guardian or representative agrees to annual site visit verification by the City.
 - (2) Critical Illness Residents, or a duly authorized guardian or representative, must reapply under Subsection of this section every (5) years and agree to annual site visit verification by the City.
 - (3) Serious Illness Residents, or a duly authorized guardian or representative, must reapply under Subsection (B) of this section, on an annual basis and agree to site visit verification by the City.
 - (4) Failure to reapply or comply with required site visit verification shall result in removal from the Medically Vulnerable Registry.

PART 2. This ordinance takes effect on	Me mu Sec Vu (E) Reg Reg	edically Vulnerable [resident] st pay the balance due or entection 15-9-144 in order for the lnerable [list] Registry. gardless of the City's awarene sident's condition or presence	Resident has a balance past-due, the customer into a deferred payment agreement under exercise residence to be placed on the Medically ess of a Medically Vulnerable [resident's] at a service address, the limitation of liability 5-9-7 applies to a Medically Vulnerable
, 2024 \$ Kirk Watson Mayor APPROVED: Anne L. Morgan Myrna Rios	PART 2.	This ordinance takes effect of	on, 2024.
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Anne L. Morgan Myrna Rios		, 2024	§ Kirk Watson
	APPROVE	Anne L. Morgan	Myrna Rios