



## INFORMATIONAL MEMO

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<b>Title:</b> In-Home Support Services Authorized Representative - Frequently Asked Questions	<b>Topic:</b> IHSS
<b>Audience:</b> Member, Authorized Representative, IHSS Agency, Case Manager	<b>Sub-Topic:</b> HCBS
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### Purpose and Audience:

The purpose of this Informational Memo is to share information with In-Home Support Services (IHSS) stakeholders about the new IHSS Authorized Representative (AR) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document.

### Information:

IHSS is a Health First Colorado service delivery option that combines traditional agency-based care with Participant Direction. In IHSS, members direct their care and set their own attendant schedules with the support of an IHSS agency. The agency performs background checks, sets hourly wages, pays attendants, and issues tax-related documents. This agency support allows members to focus on their daily lives while their IHSS agency handles employment responsibilities. Members can choose to

play a bigger role in employment and training if desired or appoint someone to direct their care on the member's behalf.

Within IHSS, the role of the AR contributes to the success of the member they support. Some members require the support of an AR and others choose to utilize an AR to coordinate and manage their services while the member focuses on important day-to-day responsibilities in their life.

The In-Home Support Services Authorized Representative - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document is intended to provide information on the IHSS AR role and addresses common questions and resources. The FAQ provides clarity on the criteria and responsibilities of an AR as well as a breakdown of common AR myths. In addition to information for members and ARs, this document also provides suggestions and guidance to IHSS agencies and Case Management Agencies.

### **Definition(s):**

**Attendant** means a person who is directly employed by an IHSS agency to provide IHSS. A family member, including a spouse, may be an attendant.

**Authorized Representative (AR)** means an individual designated by the member, or by the parent or guardian of the member, if appropriate, who has the judgment and ability to assist the member in acquiring and receiving services under Title 25.5, Article 6, Part 12, C.R.S. The AR shall not be the eligible person's service provider.

**In-Home Support Services (IHSS)** means services that are provided in the home and in the community by an attendant under the direction of the member or member's AR, including Health Maintenance Activities and support for activities of daily living or instrumental activities of daily living, Personal Care services and Homemaker services.

**In-Home Support Services (IHSS) Agency** means an agency that is certified by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, enrolled in the Medicaid program, and provides Independent Living Core Services.

### **Attachment(s):**

In-Home Support Services Authorized Representative - Frequently Asked Questions

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