

16-203.

(a) (1) The cost of care of a recipient of services shall be determined in accordance with the charges for services set under § 16-201 of this subtitle.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this title:

(i) Payment for this cost of care shall be made by the recipient of services or a chargeable person;

(ii) Their liability for this payment is joint and several; and

(iii) The insured or policyholder may not withhold the payment and shall assign to the Department any benefits available under the policy for services rendered by the Department to any insured covered by the policy.

(3) Liability may not be imposed under this title on any spouse or child of a recipient of services, if the spouse or child has been abandoned by the recipient of services. The Department shall adopt rules and regulations that define abandonment for the purposes of this subsection.

(4) LIABILITY MAY NOT BE IMPOSED UNDER THIS TITLE ON A RESPONSIBLE RELATIVE IF ANY RESPONSIBLE RELATIVE HAS BEEN THE VICTIM OF SEXUAL ABUSE, PHYSICAL ABUSE, OR A CRIME OF VIOLENCE AS DEFINED UNDER ARTICLE 27, § 643B OF THE CODE PERPETRATED BY THE RECIPIENT OF SERVICES. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT DEFINE "SEXUAL ABUSE, PHYSICAL ABUSE, OR A CRIME OF VIOLENCE" AS DEFINED UNDER ARTICLE 27, § 643B OF THE CODE FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

(b) (1) The Department:

(i) Shall set the time and amount of payments; and

(ii) May change its orders as to payments, as circumstances may warrant.

(2) ~~(1)~~ In setting the amount of payments, the Department:

~~(i)~~ ~~1-~~ Shall consider the financial means and abilities of the recipient of services and any chargeable person; and

~~(ii)~~ ~~2-~~ May agree to accept less than the charges set for the services provided.