

**INTERNAL OPERATING POLICY: General 8
SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER PLANNING**

I. Policy

All county health departments are required by law to carry out essential public health services during times of disaster. The Department of Health has the lead responsibility to coordinate with the local medical and healthcare providers to develop a plan for the staffing and medical management of special needs shelters. The county health department, local Children's Medical Services office and the local emergency management office will jointly decide who has the responsibility for medical supervision in the special needs shelter. The county health department will coordinate with the local emergency management agency to ensure appropriate staffing in the special needs shelter. The county health department will assist the local emergency management agency with regard to the management of medical services in the special needs shelter.

II. Authority

Chapter 252.385 (2)(b), Florida Statutes
Chapter 381.0303 (2) and (6), Florida Statutes

III. Effective Date

For technical assistance on this policy, see:
TAG-General 12

<u>Signature on File</u>	<u>6/14/12</u>
Steven Harris, M.D., M.Sc. Deputy Secretary for Health	Date

<u>Signature on File</u>	<u>6/14/12</u>
Rhonda White, M.B.A. Chief Bureau of Preparedness and Response	Date