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TO: Regional Office Directors, Service Coordinators, Community Providers

As you all know, the Division has responsibility of providing oversight and monitoring of supports and services provided to individuals with developmental disabilities whether they live at home with a family member or in residential supports with a contract provider.

In March 2006, interim Division Director, Linda Roebuck, sent all regional office directors and district administrators a memo regarding water temperatures in people's homes. I want to reinforce the provisions in that memo that when service coordinators are conducting their monthly visits with individuals in residential services. Specifically, that the water temperature must be checked to ensure that it is within a safe operating temperature of 110-115 degrees. When checking the water temperature, you should be able to hold your hand under the tap without the temperature feeling so hot that the hand needs to be removed. If you cannot do this, then the water temperature should be turned down.

Additionally, please make sure that if there are individualized supports identified in the person-centered plan when bathing that such supports are provided, including any modifications to equipment such as a water temperature guard and/or mixing valves.

Attached is a document that is very informative about water temperatures when bathing, which should be shared with community providers as well as families who have a loved one still living at home with them.

Thank you for your support and all you do to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities in Missouri.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard Simons".

Bernard Simons, Director
Division of Mental Retardation and
Developmental Disabilities