



## Utility Company Medical Need Certification

Utility Companies throughout Delaware have programs for individuals that need to have access to electricity 24/7 because of life sustaining medical need. If you have a special circumstance relating to electric or gas usage you must obtain the utility company life support or medical need form and have it filled out by a doctor.

Some of the equipment types that are considered medical needs are:

- Infant Apnea Monitor
- Ventilator
- Respirator
- Feeding or Infusion Pumps
- Oxygen Concentrator
- Kidney/Hemo/Peritoneal Dialysis Equip.
- Iron Lung
- Motorized wheelchair (Paralysis or where manual wheelchair is ineffective)
- Pressure Breathing Therapy
- Aerosol Tent
- Pressure Pads and Pumps
- Compressor/ Concentrator
- Electronic Nerve Stimulator
- Suction Machine
- Ultrasonic or Electrostatic nebulizers (does not include small volume nebulizers or CPAP /Bi-PAP machines)

The above list came from Delmarva Power's Medical Certification list.

**All Utilities do not provide the same services. If you are unable to pay your electric bill, the electric company may restrict the amount of electricity entering your home to what is required to run your device. All Utility Company Medical Need Certification Forms must be filled out by a licensed physician, physician assistant or advanced nurse practitioner and be returned to your utility company. They are valid for 120 days and may be renewed if necessary. Below is a list of Delaware's Electric Utility Supplier's and how to get a copy of their forms**

**Delaware Electric Coop.** — 855-332-9090 to discuss your needs.

**Delmarva Power's Medical Need Certification Form** – 800-375-7117

**City of Dover Medical Need Form** — 302-736-7035

**City of Lewes** — BPW Lewes at 302-645-6358

**City of Middletown** — 302-378-2711

**City of Milford** — 302-422-6616 ext. 164

**City of New Castle — 302—323-2330**

**City of Seaford – 302-629-9173**

**The Delaware Code protects individuals with Special Medical Needs who require electricity, water or gas. Contact your Utility Provider if you have a serious medical need and are facing termination.**

Written into the laws of The Delaware Code <http://delcode.delaware.gov/title26/c001/sc01/index.shtml>

Under Title 26 is section 117 (d & e) there is protection for those with medical needs that require electricity or gas. The sections does require good faith payments from the customer.

(d) In no event shall such termination occur if any occupant of any dwelling unit shall be so ill that the termination of such sale or service shall adversely affect his or her health or recovery, which has been so certified by a signed statement from any duly licensed physician, physician assistant or advanced nurse practitioner, of this State or of a state with similar accreditation and received by any employee or officer of such person engaging in the distribution or sale of gas, water or electricity. Signed statements from a licensed physician, physician assistant or advanced nurse practitioner, obtained pursuant to this section are effective for 120 days. Signed statements may be renewed by means of a new signed statement to prevent termination only if a customer makes a good faith effort to make payments towards the utility service being provided. The Delaware Public Service Commission, may promulgate regulations defining "good faith effort to make payments". If a utility is subject to the jurisdiction of the Delaware Public Service Commission, that utility or a customer of the utility may petition the Delaware Public Service Commission for review of any dispute under this section. While such dispute is pending, a utility shall continue to provide utility service to the customer until a final Commission adjudication on the petition is issued. When possible no termination under this section shall occur without advance notice to any known case manager or coordinator of an occupant in an affected dwelling unit.

(e) Violation of this section shall constitute a misdemeanor.