

**San Mateo County
Alcohol and Other Drug Services**

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2008

AOD Policy NO.: 2-2008

SUBJECT: Alcohol and Other Drug Use Relapse Policy

AUTHORITY: County of San Mateo

SUPERSEDES: New Policy

PURPOSE: To incorporate best practices in our service delivery system with regard to client relapse or continued use while in treatment.

POLICY

San Mateo County Alcohol and Other Drug Services views a client's continued alcohol and/or drug (AOD) use or relapse during treatment as a chronic condition that can be treated. Every effort is made to retain clients in treatment, despite continued AOD use, in order to enhance relapse prevention interventions and use relapse as an opportunity for client reassessment and reengagement.

1. Symptoms of addiction are not reason for discharge. Clients will not be automatically discharged for relapsing from current treatment level of care.
2. Clients may be discharged if they engage in illegal activities or activities listed under Title 9 that compromise their safety or those of others, such as possessing, selling, or sharing AOD **on-site** at a provider facility, residential and non-residential.
3. If and when a client relapses, as if often is the case with chronic relapsing disease, reassessment the client's level of care (LOC) to determine if client needs a higher or different LOC, and refer the client to the new LOC.

Treatment providers shall also develop guidelines and procedures consistent with County Policy.