



Your Guide to CLASS Acronyms and Terms

The process of starting services on the CLASS program will bring a lot of changes, and one of those changes will be to your vocabulary. You will need to learn a lot of acronyms and some new words. To help you out, we have summarized the most common for you.

- AA** Adaptive Aid – a device to assist in the daily activities of living, such as a special chair. The CLASS program will pay for certain adaptive aids.
- CLASS** Community Living Assistance and Support Services – a program to assist people with disabilities in achieving a community integrated lifestyle. To qualify the individual must be diagnosed with a severe chronic disability (whether due to disease, birth defects or trauma) which occurred prior to their 22nd birthday.
- CDS** Consumer Directed Services – a program within CLASS which allows a participant to hire and manage their own personal assistants as well as to direct In Home and Out of Home Respite services.
- CMA** Case Management Agency – an agency which assists in the coordination of care for the participant.
- DADS** The Department of Aging and Disability Services – this agency coordinates and monitors CLASS services for the state of Texas.
- DSA** Direct Service Agency – the home care agency which provides personal assistants, respite services, coordination of out of home respite and therapies as called for in the Individual Program Plan.
- Hab Plan** Habilitation Plan – a plan developed by the case manager, the program director, the participant, and/or the participant's family detailing the amount of time and type of support which will be provided by the personal assistant.
- HM** Home Modification – see **MHM** below.
- IDT** Interdisciplinary Team – a team consisting of the participant and/or the participant's family, the direct service agency, and the case management agency. Others may be invited to participate.
- IHR** In Home Respite - respite is intended as a break for the primary caretaker. Respite units are budgeted in 24 hour increments, but do not have to be used in 24 hour increments.
- IPC** Individual Plan of Care – a one page summary developed by the case manager at the IDT meeting that lists all of the services that are to be received by the client and the cost of these services. The case manager sends it to DADS for approval.

IPP Individual Program Plan – a multipage document that is prepared annually and updated quarterly by the client and the case manager. It details all of the services needed by the client, why they are needed, the goals to be achieved, who is responsible for implementation of the various segments of the services, projected completion dates and estimates of costs associated with each of the services.

LOC Level of Care – also called an **MRRC**. It is a determination made by the direct service agency nurse as to the level of care required to meet the needs of the participant. There are state established guidelines for making this determination. This decision is made based on the nursing assessment and the Scales of Independent Behavior – Revised (see **SIB-R**) which the nurse completes. The participant's physician signs the initial LOC.

MHM Minor Home Modification – under the Individual Program Plan (**IPP**) minor home modifications may be authorized to help create an environment which promotes independent living. An example would be a ramp or a bathroom modification.

MRRC A form completed by the direct service agency nurse as to the level of care required to meet the needs of the participant. There are state established guidelines for making this determination. This decision is made based on the nursing assessment and the Scales of Independent Behavior – Revised (see **SIB-R**) which the nurse completes. The participant's physician signs the initial MRRC.

NA Nursing Assessment – it is a requirement of the CLASS program that anyone receiving services have a nursing assessment done annually and after any hospitalization. The annual nursing assessment consists of an overall assessment of health, completion of the level of care, and completion of the related conditions screening. Additionally at the first assessment and every five years, an assessment of functional abilities will be completed using an approved test such as the **SIB-R**.

OHR Out of Home Respite – like In Home Respite (**IHR**), out of home respite is intended to provide a break for the primary caretaker. Out of home respite can be provided by a nursing facility that meets DADS requirements or in a camp that is accredited by the American Camping Association.

PCA Personal Care Attendant – the individual who will be providing personal care to the participant.

PD Program Director – the individual at the direct services agency who will supervise the provision of care to the participant.

RC Related Conditions – to qualify for the CLASS program, an individual must be diagnosed with severe chronic disability. CLASS calls these disabilities related conditions. An easier way to look at it is to say that anyone on CLASS must have a disability which prevents him or her from performing

at least three of six major life skills or activities. The State of Texas defines these six life skills as: self care, understanding, learning, mobility, self direction, capacity for independent living. To participate in the CLASS program, there must be the expectation that each participant will be able to gain skills in areas where they have an identified problem. The related conditions screening is done by the nurse each year at the annual nursing assessment.

SIB-R Scales of Independent Behavior – Revised – one of the approved tests used to complete the state-mandated evaluation of the functional abilities of the participant.

