

MEMO

To: Butch McMillan, Executive Director, Mississippi Department of
Rehabilitation Services
From: Kelly Riley, Policy Liaison
Date: August 2, 2000
Subject: Regional Services Administration: Conflict with the CAP Grant
Program

Bruce Rhodes of the Regional Services Administration (RSA) informed me on July 27 that Easter Seals Mississippi's providing of aids and appliances to blind clients with funds from the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services violates regulations for administering the Client Assistance Program (CAP) grant as set forth by the Rehabilitation Act. Title 34, Section 370.2 of the Code of Federal Regulations provides that the CAP administrator be independent of any agency that provides treatment, services or rehabilitation to individuals under the Act. According to July 27 correspondence from Lisa Avra, Executive Director/CEO of Mississippi Society for Disabilities, formerly Easter Seals Mississippi, she has closed the organization's Low Vision Aids and Appliances program due to the conflict with RSA's recent interpretation of the applicable federal regulations.

Please contact me at 359-2528 if you have any questions regarding this matter.