



## Bedroom Doors in Residential Programs

**Policy Number:** RP-26-05

**Release Date:** May 14, 2026

**Effective Date:** November 17, 2026

**Applicability:** All Licensed Residential Programs

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### BACKGROUND

The Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) is committed to safe, hospitable home environments for all residents living in residential programs. This policy outlines the conditions in which residents' personal privacy may be accommodated through the closing or locking of bedroom doors or the use of alternative doorway coverings without compromising the supervision, security, or well-being of any resident.

### AUTHORITY

- 606 CMR 3.01: "...606 CMR 3.00 identifies, to the fullest extent possible, the standards and practices necessary...(3) to meet each resident's needs for safety, space, comfort, privacy, dignity, and community."
- 606 CMR 3.08(7): Living Units.
- 606 CMR 3.09(1): Resident Records.

### DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this policy, the following definition is used:

- **Self-Preservation**: The physical, emotional or cognitive ability to take reasonable and appropriate actions to protect oneself when faced with adverse or

threatening circumstances, including but not limited to, fire, severe weather, medical emergency, or emotional crisis.

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

### **Closing Bedroom Doors/Covering Bedroom Doorways**

Bedroom doors and doorways in residential programs must remain open and uncovered at all times unless the bedroom is occupied by a single resident who resides in the room and demonstrates appropriate self-preservation abilities. Under such circumstances, if a second person enters the resident's room, the door must remain open unless a clinical determination is made regarding specific room assignments in pre-independent living and young adult programs that requires otherwise.

For such bedrooms occupied by a single resident whom the residential program has determined demonstrates appropriate self-preservation abilities, the program must ensure the bedroom has a closable door or other type of doorway covering or document a plan for how to provide privacy to the room's resident, per 606 CMR 3.01(3).

Bedroom doorways must be always kept free of furniture, clutter, or other physical barriers.

### **Locking Bedrooms**

Locks on bedroom doors in residential programs must not impede residents' ability to easily exit their room in case of emergency. Any doors with locks must be easily opened from the inside without causing delay. Deadbolt locks are not permitted on residential program bedroom doors.

Locks on bedroom doors in residential programs must not prevent or delay program staff from accessing the bedrooms. Such locks must not be lockable from the inside and program staff must have access to any key or passcode required to unlock the door.

## **COMPLIANCE**

EEC staff may measure compliance during residential program visits by reviewing bedroom doorways and/or any related resident privacy plans.

## **OBSOLETE**

- EEC Closed/Locked Doors Policy (2003)