



POLICY ADVISORY

Policy Title: Residential Licensing Policy Updates: July 2026

Policy Numbers: RP-26-01, RP-26-10, RP-26-11, RP-26-12

Release Date: July 8, 2026

Effective Date: November 17, 2026

Policy Link: [Licensing Policies for Residential and Placement Programs](#)

OVERVIEW

EEC released updated Standards for the Licensure of Residential Programs Serving Residents and Young Parents, effective November 17, 2026. To accompany the new regulations, EEC is updating existing policies and creating new policies to further support the aims of the new regulations: modernizing and streamlining language, enhancing clarity, and incorporating an evidence-based approach to residential program licensing.

This policy advisory provides an overview of the **second release of policy updates** that will take effect alongside the new licensing regulations on **November 17, 2026**. These policies are applicable to all residential programs.

NEW RESIDENTIAL POLICIES

- **Seclusion:** New policy clarifying the definition of “seclusion” adopted by EEC in the updated regulations and detailing the limited, specific conditions under which seclusion is authorized as a last resort response to an imminent risk of serious physical harm. This policy replaces the Separation from the Group policy, issued in September 2016.

- **Use of Temporary Relief Staff in Residential Programs:** New policy clarifying the background record check (BRC), training, and documentation requirements for temporary relief staff to work in residential programs.
- **Residential Facility Safety and Maintenance:** New policy affirming the physical facility standards established by EEC in the residential regulations and formalizing the requirement that residential programs maintain a Residential Facility Safety and Maintenance Checklist. This policy release includes an updated version of the checklist.

REISSUED RESIDENTIAL POLICY

- **Internal Investigations and Personnel Guidance:** Minor corrections made to the policy released in May 2026.

REISSUED PLACEMENT POLICIES

In cases where a residential policy replaced an existing policy that was applicable to both residential programs and placement agencies, the original policy will remain in effect for placement agencies only.

EEC is reissuing two policies to clarify their updated applicability to placement agencies only. The policies are: Internal Investigations and Personnel Guidance (originally issued on March 22, 2022) and Serious Injury in Residential Care or Placement (originally issued on September 25, 2008). The effective date is immediate.

OBSOLETE

The above policies replace the following EEC policies for residential programs:

- Internal Investigations and Personnel Guidance policy issued on May 14, 2026
- Separation from the Group policy issued on September 8, 2016
- Physical Facility and Transportation Checklist issued on July 1, 2005