



POLICY ADVISORY

Policy Title: Sexual Abuse and Exploitation: Prevention, Identification, Reporting, and Response

Policy Number: RP-26-14

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Policy Link: [Link to full policy document](#)

OVERVIEW

Residents of EEC-licensed residential programs may have experienced trauma or other circumstances that increase their vulnerability to sexual abuse, sexual grooming, sexual exploitation, trafficking, and other forms of victimization. Residential providers can reduce the risk of sexual victimization by establishing coordinated policies, effective supervision, appropriate staffing, ongoing training, clear expectations for professional boundaries, and timely intervention.

This policy establishes the minimum standards that EEC-licensed residential programs must implement to:

- Prevent and reduce the risk of sexual abuse, sexual grooming, sexual exploitation, trafficking, and other forms of resident victimization;
- Ensure the timely identification, reporting, and thorough investigation of sexual abuse and exploitation;
- Respond to sexual abuse and exploitation in an individualized and trauma-informed manner; and
- Promote the safety, dignity, and well-being of residents.

The requirements of this policy support compliance with 606 CMR 3.00 and other applicable laws while promoting safe, accountable, and trauma-informed environments for residents.

APPLICABILITY

All Licensed Residential Programs

KEY TOPICS

This policy outlines requirements for the following topics:

- Residential Safety and Support
- Prevention Requirements
- Resident Room Assignments
- Special Considerations Regarding Missing or Absent Residents
- Training Requirements
- Professional Boundaries
- Identification of Sexual Abuse, Sexual Grooming, and Exploitation
- Response to Suspected Abuse
- Mandated Reporting
- Documentation and Incident Reporting