



Serious Injury in Placement Care

Policy Number: RP-26-08

Release Date: July 8, 2026

Effective Date: July 8, 2026

Applicability: All EEC-licensed Placement Agencies

AUTHORITY

606 CMR 5.04(4)(f): The licensee shall immediately report to the Department any serious incident or death of any child who is in the care or custody of the licensee.

POLICY STATEMENT

A serious physical injury to a child in care must be reported to the Department within twenty-four (24) hours of the incident and investigated by the licensee in accordance with EEC's [Internal Investigations and Personnel Guidance in Placement Agencies policy](#).

A serious injury must be reported to the Department if it has occurred while the placement agency was responsible for supervising the placement.

Any serious injury, including self-injury, which results in inpatient psychiatric or medical hospitalization of a child must be reported to the Department.

Serious injuries include, but are not limited to broken bones, lacerations requiring stitches, loss of consciousness, and extensive bruising.

The licensee must also report to the Department any injury to a child which results in the filing of a 51A report to the Department of Children and Families alleging abuse or neglect of a child while in a placement subject to the supervision of the agency.

The licensee should also report to the Department any injury to a child which might be a result of staff error or neglect and which is the subject of an internal investigation by the program. In addition, it is suggested that the licensee notify the Department of any injury to a child which results in a complaint to the licensee regarding their care of the child.

OBSOLETE

For licensed Placement agencies, this policy replaces EEC's previous Serious Injury in Residential Care or Placement policy issued on September 25, 2008.