

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 17: Residential Licensing Section 02: Initial Licensing Review	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 3

POLICY OVERVIEW

Licensing residential facilities helps to keep children safe and healthy. It also helps to make sure youth get the right treatment by setting clear requirements for care, programs, and staff qualifications.

POLICY STATEMENT

The initial licensing review checks that a new applicant:

1. Knows all of the rules and requirements for:
 - Child Caring Institutions (CCI),
 - Private Secure Facilities (PSF), or
 - Group Homes (GH).
2. Is ready to meet or go beyond the minimum standards required by:
 - Indiana Code (IC),
 - Indiana Administrative Code (IAC), and
 - Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) policies.

The review includes a final walk-through of the facility before the license is approved.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-27-3: Regulation of Child Caring Institutions](#)
- [IC 31-27-5: Regulation of Group Homes](#)
- [465 IAC 2-9: Children's Homes and Child Caring Institutions](#)
- [465 IAC 2-10: Emergency Shelter Care Children's Homes and Child Caring Institutions](#)
- [465 IAC 2-11: Private Secure Facilities](#)
- [465 IAC 2-12: Children's Homes and Child Caring Institutions Defined as Group Homes](#)
- [465 IAC 2-13: Children's Homes and Child Caring Institutions Defined as Emergency Shelter Care Group Homes](#)