

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 17: Residential Licensing Section 14: Institutional Reports	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 2

POLICY OVERVIEW

The Indiana Department of Child Service (DCS) Residential Licensing Unit (RLU) reviews all complaints about licensed residential facilities to check rules or contract violations.

POLICY STATEMENT

DCS will review all formal complaints before renewing a license. A licensed facility may add comments about the complaint to its file.

If DCS has reason to believe the issue puts a child in immediate danger of serious harm or health risk, DCS will report it to:

1. The attorney general;
2. The local office; and
3. The prosecuting attorney in the county where the facility is located.

DCS may:

1. Ask for a search warrant to help with the investigation;
2. Request a court order to stop the facility from operating if there is immediate danger to a child's health or safety;
3. Require a corrective action plan, which may include stopping new placements to protect children;
4. Remove children from the facility; and
5. Meet with the facility after a court order is issued.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-27-2-6: Investigation of complaints](#)
- [IC 31-27-3-29: Investigations of noncompliance; injunction, corrective action plans, removal of children, informal meetings](#)